

# LITERARY GAZETTE

Journal of Archaeology, Science, and Art.

N° 37—1856.

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH.

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## REVIEWS.

*Later Biblical Researches in Palestine and the adjacent Regions: a Journal of Travels in the Year 1852.* By Edward Robinson, Eli Smith, and others. Drawn up from the Original Diaries, with Historical Illustrations. By Edward Robinson, D.D., LL.D. With Maps and Plans. John Murray.

WHATEVER may have been the contributions of America of late years to other branches of literature, there is certainly one field where her writers stand out in rival excellence to those of France, Germany, or this country. That peculiar domain is the geographical illustration of the Holy Land; to which the curiosity and the reverence of American Christendom revert with the same energy that has marked the old world, since the Empress Helena first gave a local habitation to the enthusiasm of the recently established Christian Church. In every age, from those days to the present, crowds of pilgrims have been found eager to tread the "acres walked over" by those "blessed feet" of which the poet writes; and in the case of our brethren on the other side of the Atlantic, the attraction seems to vary, as the mathematicians say, not *inversely* but *directly* as the distance to be traversed. And among the records they have published of their researches, their impressions, and their adventures, we derive at least as much information from the travels of Stephens, from the official reports of the United States Government Expedition, and the collections of the American missionaries, as from the works of Kraft and Tobler, of M. De Saucy, whom the world still remembers as the discoverer of the ruins of Sodom (not since by others discernible), or of the Rev. George Williams. The source of this copious stream of biblical literature—the base of operations from which these investigations have been carried out, is the American mission at Beirût. Amongst that band of excellent men, whose labours, rather of an educational than a proselytizing nature, have been crowned with abundant success, as appears from their various inland stations, and their numerous catechumens throughout Syria and Palestine, many, as, for instance, the Rev. Samuel Wolcott, the Rev. Eli Smith, the Rev. W. M. Thomson, the Rev. J. L. Porter, and the Rev. S. Robson, were topographers as well as teachers, and naturally turned to the scenes round them in order to find illustrations of the sacred writings which it was their peculiar office to interpret. Neither the Anglo-Prussian see of Jerusalem, nor the Germano-Swiss Gebrüder, nor even the Jews' Society, though noisy enough upon English platforms, has ever communicated one-tenth of the useful and reliable information respecting the Holy Land that has been contributed by these unostentatious though effective labourers. Foremost in their rank must be placed the name of Dr. Robinson, who has long been one of the leading authorities on questions of scripture illustration, and whose former 'Biblical Researches' are a text book in the hands of every traveller and student. The present volume is a continuation of those investigations. The earlier journeys were undertaken in 1838; those now recorded, in 1852; the interval of fourteen years having

witnessed various important changes in Turkish politics, and an accumulation of literature upon one particular point—the ancient topography of Jerusalem—such as never before has appeared in any single century of the Christian era. The latter circumstance may be attributed, no doubt, in a great measure, to the impetus given to inquiry by Dr. Robinson's previous writings; and upon the result, therefore, he naturally congratulates himself. The special subject of the Holy City, however, forms but a small item in the present work, which is, in the main, a diary of journeys undertaken by Dr. Robinson in the company of various other missionaries, whose journals he incorporates with his own. The course was as follows:—starting from Beirût the travellers followed the coast as far as Sidon; from thence they struck inland to the eastward as far as the roots of Lebanon, and then southwards through Galilee, crossing the Leontes and passing through Tibnin and the Ramahs of Asher and Naphtali to 'Akka (Acre). From 'Akka they traversed Galilee and Samaria to Jerusalem.

The second journey was northwards from the Holy City, and still on the west of the Jordan, to Beisân and Hasbeiya, at the foot of Mount Hermon. Here an excursion was made to Baniâs or Paneas-Cæsarea, and afterwards the route continued to Damascus. On their return, they again entered Cœle-Syria, and following the valley between Libanus and Antilibanus, passed in succession Baalbek and Riblah. Rounding the north of Mount Lebanon by El Husn, they visited the cedars, and returned by Arka (Apheca) to Beirût. In the course of these travels abundant opportunities must have occurred for observing native manners, and the incidents of personal adventure must have been not a few. To these points, however, which form the staple of so many books of modern travel, Dr. Robinson sparingly alludes. He rarely indulges in the word-painting of recent tourists, and those who look in his pages for the excitement furnished by such writers as Kinglake or Warburton, or even of the reverent and earnest Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, will be disappointed. The author's outlines are firmly and carefully drawn, but are seldom invested with the light-and-shade or colour of composition. He dedicates his book to Colonel Leake, as the "model traveller," and, like him, is exact in his narratives; but then he carries his observations to an almost painful degree of minuteness. He notices the changes of temperature, of wind and weather; he records the elevations of land and the bearings of towns; he describes with unwearied care the course of valleys and the windings of streams, and his chronometer must have been for ever in his hand.

The great object of attainment has evidently been materials for reconstructing the map of Syria and Palestine. This, we should not omit to say, appears to have been approximately done, and the map which accompanies the volume, engraved by Kiepert of Berlin, is new. Professor Robinson, in fact, though not strictly a scientific man, in the department either of geology, meteorology, natural history, engineering, or archaeology, yet glances at every one of these pursuits, and produces a mass of facts from which a Lepsius or a Humboldt may some day draw important deductions. Minute topography is the author's forte, and beyond this the volume contains only occasional points of

interest for that exigent but superficial personage—the "general reader."

Amongst the more important identifications of the sites of ancient towns here established may be mentioned the following:—The Achshaph of the Book of Joshua, on the border of the tribe of Asher, is presumed to be met with in the ruins of Kesâf, not far from Kubrikhah. Near this town luxuriant crops of wheat were observed, and Dr. Robinson adds:

"Among these splendid fields of grain are still found the *tares* spoken of in the New Testament. As described to me, they are not to be distinguished from the wheat until the ear appears. The seed resembles wheat in form, but is smaller and black. In Beirût poultry are fed upon this seed, and it is kept for sale for that purpose. When not separated from the wheat, bread made from the flour often causes dizziness to those who eat of it. All this corresponds with the *lolium temulentum*, or bearded darnel."

A few miles north of this lies the fortress of Arnûn, upon the river Leontes, the *Belfort* of the crusaders, where massive remains still exist, and command a splendid prospect of Hermon and the two Lebanons. Râmeh still exists, the ancient Ramah of Asher, and Hammon, of the same tribe, is supposed to be met with in an adjoining village, now Hâmûl. The Ramah of Naphtali may be similarly identified; as also the Hukkuk of Naphtali, spoken of in Joshua (the Hukkuk mentioned in the Book of Chronicles as a city of refuge for Asher, being a misreading for Hukthah); and the Selamis and Araba of Josephus. An excellent sketch has been given of the various changes in the government and history of Acre—a town which seems again to be in a flourishing condition, visited by French, Italian, and Austrian vessels, but by comparatively few from Great Britain. On the road between Acre and Jerusalem, a question is discussed as to the site of Jotapata, the town defended by Josephus against Vespasian, which is decided by Dr. Robinson in favour of Tell Jéfât, though the absence of all fortifications or ruins renders the conclusion doubtful. The position of Cana of Galilee, another disputed question, is again discussed; and amongst other Scripture names referred to on this route, the following may be enumerated: Bethlehem of Zebulun, Jokneam, the river Kishon, the battle-field of Deborah and Barak, Taanach, Megiddo, Dothan, Prithon, the brook Kanah, Gilgal, Lydda, the valley of Ajalon, Chephirah, Emmaus, Zorah, the birthplace of Samson, Chesalon, and Kirjath-jearim. Similar lists might be extracted from the routes north of Jerusalem to Damascus and Baalbek; but enough has been said to indicate the general course pursued. Among other sites, that of Dan and its neighbourhood, the district which the Benjamites are recorded in the Book of Judges to have won from the Sidonians, under its then name of Laish, is fully identified and described. Dr. Robinson discovered also that the upper branches of the Jordan all unite below this town, and enter the lake Merom in one stream. At Baniâs (Paneas-Cæsarea), close by, the natural features are described as highly attractive:—

"We immediately ascended the steep slope, and came out at the top upon the beautiful terrace on which Baniâs is situated. Passing on among fine copes of trees, and splendid fields of wheat, and water-courses drawn from the noble fountain, we came at 5.05 much exhausted to the village in the angle of the mountains. Here we pitched our tent beneath the shade of the spreading terebinths so often mentioned by travellers."

"This terrace of Baniás was to me an entirely new feature in the region; no traveller had ever mentioned it. Towards the north it abuts upon the flank of Jebel esh-Sheikh, between the gorge of Wady el-'Asal and the angle of the mountain with the eastern hills; on the east it lies against the declivity of the same range; while on the south it runs together and mingles with the gentler slopes of the same hills. It is thus nearly triangular; is highest towards the north; and slopes very gently towards the south. The elevation of Baniás, in the interior north-eastern angle, is eleven hundred and forty-seven feet above the sea, being five hundred feet higher than Tell el-Kády. In this angle the great fountain bursts forth, and sends its waters down a ravine of its own, south-west to the plain of the Húleh. Yet they are also drawn off over the whole surface of the terrace; and are even carried down its western declivity, to irrigate portions of the plain below, to which the waters from Tell el-Kády cannot be conducted.

"The formation of the terrace is wholly limestone, but at Baniás the igneous rocks again present themselves."

#### Again:—

"The situation of Baniás is unique; combining in an unusual degree the elements of grandeur and beauty. It nestles in its recess at the southern base of the mighty Hermon, which towers in majesty to an elevation of seven or eight thousand feet above. Its terrace I have already described; over which the abundant waters of the glorious fountain spread luxuriant fertility and the graceful interchange of copse, lawn, and waving fields. The situation is charming. Lying too so high above the Húleh, its atmosphere partakes of the salubrity of the adjacent mountains. The vicinity of the mountain, the many woods, and the rich fields of grain around Baniás, make it the resort of an abundance of game. Panthers and wolves are on the mountain; wild swine and gazelles luxuriate among the grain. Many of the swine are killed by the peasants, who watch their fields by night. Wild ducks, partridges, snipe, and other birds, are in plenty."

An interesting account is given also of Lake Phiala, a few miles to the east of this spot; and as one of the most picturesque descriptions in the volume, it is here inserted:—

"The lake lies at the bottom of a deep bowl, apparently an ancient crater, not less than from a hundred and fifty to two hundred feet below the level of the surrounding tract. The form is an irregular circle; the diameter of the water being a mile and perhaps more. It made upon me the impression of a larger lake than I had anticipated. The tract around is high table land, rising on the south of the lake almost at once into wooded or bushy hills; and skirted at some distance on the east likewise by a wooded range. The declivities of the basin itself are dreary and desolate, with only an occasional shrub and a few patches of tillage; but the country around, though not fertile, is more cultivated.

"The water of the lake is stagnant and impure, with a slimy look. Just at the margin it was muddy for a few feet, and did not seem to be clear and pure in any part. At a short distance from the shore was a broad belt of water plants, now turned brown, and in some places resembling islands. The middle of the lake was free. Wild ducks were swimming in different parts. A large hawk was sailing above them, and occasionally swooping down to the surface of the water, as if to seize a duck or a frog. Our Druzes fired at him, and broke his wing; he fell among the water plants, and could not there be reached. Myriads and myriads of frogs lined the shores, and it was amusing to see them perched thickly along the stones, as if drawn up in battle array to keep off intruders. It is the very paradise of frogs. The lake supplies the whole country with leeches; which are gathered by men wading in, and letting the leeches fasten themselves upon their legs. The ground along the margin is mostly without reeds

or rushes; and is covered with small black volcanic stones. The shores and sides of the crater exhibit everywhere small glistening black crystals, resembling hornblende.

"There seems no room for question but that this lake is the ancient *Phiala* described by Josephus; so called from its bowl-like form, and situated on the right of the road leading from Caesarea Philippi to Trachonitis.

"Seetzen heard of the lake, but did not visit it. Burckhardt makes no allusion to it. It was first examined by Irby and Mangles, in passing from Damascus to Baniás in 1818. Of late years it has been several times visited. The present name is usually given as Birket er-Rám; but we heard distinctly the pronunciation Birket er-Rán; and so Seetzen heard it and gives it in Arabic letters."

The great fortresses of Baniás and esh-Shukíf were seen on the return from Lake Phiala. The former is described as the most extensive and best preserved ancient fortress in the whole country. The following are the most interesting features:—

"The western and lower end of the fortress, which overlooks the whole region below, exhibits in some parts specimens of the heaviest and finest work. At the northwest corner especially, large stones lie scattered, which are six or eight feet in length, finely wrought, and bevelled. Several of the towers along the southern wall are in like manner finished with superior bevelled work. In particular, one round tower, with fine sloping work below, presents a finished bevel at least not inferior to that of the tower Hippicus at Jerusalem."

On the road between Hásbeiya and Damascus, a natural bridge has been formed at the chasm of the Litány, over which the road has been carried, and the scenery is here described as in the highest degree picturesque, wild, and grand. This bridge, the dimensions of which are given, and its remarkable character explained, is called the Kúweh. It is believed to have been wholly unknown to travellers till visited by Dr. Smith in 1844.

Damascus, as may be expected, occupies an important chapter in such a work as this. Dr. Robinson describes, in separate sections, the plain—the local divisions—the "tells" or mounds—the soil—the rivers and fountains—the remarkable lakes, which absorb the two great streams, the Abana and Pharpar of antiquity—the agricultural fruits—the population, &c. The following description reiterates and confirms all history and tradition:—

"The portions of the plain adjacent to the city, are mostly devoted to the culture of fruit and garden vegetables. In the remoter parts, all the various species of grain for the use of man or beast are raised in profusion. Tobacco, cotton, flax, hemp, madder-roots, ricinus, are also cultivated to a considerable extent. But of tobacco only a small part of the quantity consumed is thus supplied; and the madder-plant is much more cultivated in the plain of Nebk.

"Of trees, the olive is the most abundant, and the orchards furnish about one-fourth part of the oil consumed at Damascus for eating, burning, and soap-boiling. The tall and slender poplars too are seen in many parts with their silvery foliage, especially along the valley and streams of the Barada; they furnish almost the only timber used for building. For fuel the wood of the olive and apricot is mainly used. A few palm trees, cypresses, and plane trees are occasionally seen. But the glory of Damascus are its gardens and forests of fruit trees, which surround the city for miles, and almost hide it from view. Vegetables of all kinds are abundant and cheap. The profusion of water is favourable to their cultivation; and also especially to the growth of fruit trees. Almost every species of fruit is produced around Damascus, either in the plain or in the valley of the Barada. Besides the olive, we either saw or heard expressly named the

following, viz., oranges, lemons, citrons (in the courts of the houses), apples, pears, quinces, peaches, apricots, almonds, plums, grapes, figs, pomegranates, mulberries, walnuts, hazelnuts, pistachios, &c. The wines of Damascus are among the best of Syria. Grapes ripen early in July; and are said to be found in the market during eight months. Such is this splendid plain, the seat of this great oriental city. Well might Abulfeda say of it:—'The Ghútah of Damascus is one of the four paradises, which are the most excellent of the beautiful places of the earth. They are the Ghútah of Damascus, the She'ab of Bauhan, the river of Ubulleh, and Soghd of Samarkand. The Ghútah of Damascus excels the other three.' In like manner Julian calls Damascus 'the eye of the whole east.'

On the way to Baalbek the ancient road was passed, and the celebrated Latin inscriptions are again given. They reached at length the quarries where still lies in a slanting position the famous colossal block—length sixty-eight feet four inches, width seventeen feet two inches, height fourteen feet seven inches—probably the largest hewn stone in the world; and finally the temples themselves. Dr. Robinson does not profess to throw any new light upon these famous ruins: he contents himself with recording the impressions they made upon his party as travellers, and refers for all matters of detail to the great work of Wood and Dawkins, the memoirs of Volney, and the speculations of De Sauley. An historical notice of the temples and their vicissitudes is appended.

Of the cedars the following description is given. They were reached in July, 1852:—

"The cedars are not less remarkable for their position, than for their age and size. The amphitheatre in which they are situated is of itself a great temple of nature, the most vast and magnificent of all the recesses of Lebanon. The lofty dorsal ridge of the mountain, as it approaches from the south, trends slightly towards the east for a time; and then, after resuming its former direction, throws off a spur of equal altitude towards the west, which sinks down gradually into the ridge terminating at Ehdén. This ridge sweeps round so as to become nearly parallel with the main ridge; thus forming an immense recess or amphitheatre, approaching to the horse-shoe form; surrounded by the loftiest ridges of Lebanon, which rise still two or three thousand feet above it, and are partly covered with snows. In the midst of this amphitheatre stand the cedars, utterly alone, with not a tree besides, nor hardly a green thing in sight. The amphitheatre fronts towards the west; and, as seen from the cedars, the snows extend round from south to north. The extremities of the arc, in front, bear from the cedars south-west and north-west. High up in the recess the deep precipitous chasm of the Kadisha has its beginning; the wildest and grandest of all the gorges of Lebanon."

Similar glens lie on the western slope of the mountain, and amongst them the valley of Afka, anciently Apheca, where are to be seen still the remains of an ancient temple built across a mountain torrent, which descends from above in three regular and probably artificial waterfalls. This stream was one of the sources of the Adonis, the "Thammuz yearly wounded" of Milton, and the supposed scene of the myth of Venus and Adonis. The temple of the former deity was at Afka, two miles off; that of Adonis at Byblus. The scenery is pronounced to be of surpassing loveliness.

The ancient remains of temples and other monuments visited by the travellers were very numerous. Dr. Robinson speaks of Mount Hermon as being girded with ancient temples; and, in describing one of these near Beirút,



he speaks of having seen thirteen similar ones, besides those at Baalbek. This temple near Beirût is remarkable as having eight or ten Latin and Greek inscriptions scattered about on stones built into the walls of an adjoining convent. They have been copied and published by various writers; and are remarkable as containing a dedication to "Balmarcos, Lord of Sports"—the latter words being probably a translation of the former. Near Hibbâriyeh, which is a village on the south-west flank of Mount Hermon, stands another of these temples, fifty-eight feet long by thirty-one broad, having square pilasters at the corners with Ionic capitals:—

"Between these, in the eastern front, were two round columns forming the portico. Along the walls, near the foundation, is an ornamented ledge, and above, at the eaves, a double cornice with a line of rounded stones between. At each end is a noble pediment. This is one of the best preserved and most beautiful specimens of the many ancient temples with which Lebanon, Anti-Lebanon, and the valleys between are thronged. \* \* \* The founders and worshippers have disappeared for unknown ages; whether they were Phœnicians or Greco-Syrians we cannot tell; they have left behind no trace but these their works, and no record to show how or why these works were erected."

Other similar ruins are described:—a temple at Mejdal, between Damascus and Baalbek, eighty-two feet long by forty-six wide, had pillars four feet in diameter at the base, and immense Doric capitals were found scattered about. Here also was noticed that bevelling of the stones in their courses, which is a peculiar and striking feature of Syrian architecture. The date of these remains is still a problem for the archaeologist and architect. Surely before long some competent antiquary will be induced to spend a few summer months in these delightful regions, who will be able to pronounce definitely, from internal evidence, upon the true character of these structures.

Another class of edifices of more doubtful character, one of which was at Rameh, between Beirût and 'Akka, another at Kefr Bîrîm, with a Hebrew inscription, are set down as Jewish synagogues of the earlier centuries of the Christian era.

Tombs and sarcophagi are everywhere to be met with in Syria. An excavated convent for monks is also to be seen near the fountains of the Orontes—the reported dwelling-place of Mâr Mârôn, the founder of the Maronites. Close by is the remarkable monument of Hürmul. It stands on a pedestal having three steps of black basalt, on which is a story twenty-nine feet six inches square; above this a second story somewhat contracted, and upon the last a pyramid; the whole being about sixty feet high. The sides are sculptured. This monument is mentioned in Abulfeda; it was first noticed by Mr. Thomson in 1846, and its purpose is still unexplained.

Amongst other curiosities of natural history, or of native manners, may be noticed the shifting sand hills near Beirût, which are gradually driven northwards by the winds in spite of the pine trees carefully planted by the government to stay their progress; their surface being sometimes rippled into waves, or raised into the air in clouds: the apparatus of the partridge hunter, who bears a light frame of cane on which to stretch a screen painted in stripes, with only a hole for the gun, the birds being attracted, it is said, by the bright colours: the ancient wine-

press, consisting of two vats, both hollowed out of the rock, the upper and shallow one in which the grapes were trodden being dug out of a thin layer of rock naturally projecting over the lower, the juice from the former being drawn off when required by a vent in the bottom: the bitumen pits at Damascus, the product of which is said to be used mainly for destroying the insects that prey on vines, the bitumen being melted, mixed with oil, and smeared on at the roots; and the preparation of the syrup named *dibs* from the grapes of Hâsbeiyâ. To these we can do no more than refer the reader, as also to the casual allusion to the Syrian mission; from which, however, a high estimate may be formed of the devotedness and activity of the American missionaries.

Finally, we come to the point of most general interest—namely, the ancient topography of Jerusalem itself. To this question, or knot of questions, Dr. Robinson devotes a chapter. He begins by enumerating certain points on which he assumes most writers to be agreed. The third of these points is, that a particular tower just south of the Yâfa gate is that anciently known as the tower of Hippicus. But although Mr. Williams and Mr. Fergusson both differ from this opinion, Dr. Robinson does not condescend to notice either of their arguments, but coolly dismisses them both in a short note. Mr. Fergusson and Mr. Williams may both be wrong, but their arguments have been deliberately laid before the world. That of Mr. Fergusson is founded upon measurements given in the text of Josephus. His views, therefore, deserve at least some consideration, and this summary method of dealing with opponents rather damages the writer's own cause. The first acknowledged difficulty or field of discussion is the direction of the valley called Tyropœon, or more strictly, that of the Tyropœi, and the position of Aera. Here we think the Professor has unquestionably the best of the argument. The same may be said of his second point—the situation of the hill Bezetha. On both questions his main antagonist is Mr. Williams, in his book, 'The Holy City.' We then come to the site of the gate Gennath, which depends upon the position of the tower Hippicus, itself a point disputed by Mr. Fergusson, but we believe by him alone. This question, the locality of this gate, must, we think, after all that has been said, even if the tower Hippicus be identified, remain a matter of uncertainty, the only hope of its decision lying in the future discovery of ancient remains. The existing materials for its solution appear to be too scanty. Then arises the question of the second wall: and here the recent discovery of remains near the present Damascus gate proves that the wall extended to that spot. This discovery confirms a previous conjecture of Dr. Robinson. The only doubt is, whether this second wall started from near the Yâfa gate, or wherever else was the site of the tower Hippicus, or whether it ran along the side of the present bazaar. The latter, which is the more modern opinion, appears to be in many respects less consistent with probability than the former. The next debateable ground is the southern portion of the Hâram area, involving considerations relative to the site of the Temple and the date of the substructions below. Dr. Robinson's argument appears to be this:—that the massive and elaborate masonry at the Jews' wailing place, and of the vaults discovered by Catherwood, and figured by Tipping, together with the re-

mains of the celebrated bridge, discovered by Dr. Robinson himself, are, in fact, the substructions of the "ancient Jewish temple." But of which ancient temple? The Professor scarcely ventures to say of Solomon's temple, but he adds, "if not to the time of Solomon himself, yet perhaps to the days of his successors." A very vague statement, and one which shows that Dr. Robinson feels himself unable to grapple with this part of the argument, which can be founded only upon architectural knowledge of styles; and that he hazards only the opinion of an ordinary observer. Under these circumstances we think some attention might have been bestowed upon the very elaborate reasoning of Mr. Fergusson on this subject, who, following Josephus, imagines that the Temple occupied a space exactly square, at the south-west angle of the Hâram area, each side measuring a stadium, or 606 feet. This whole subject consequently remains involved in the utmost obscurity. The position of Antonia is another question which will possibly never be cleared up. Its shape (though Dr. Robinson attempts to prove it must have been square), its size, and its position, though all may be approximately fixed, are probably undeterminable in the present state of our knowledge. After a discussion upon the waters of Jerusalem, follows a chapter on the Holy Sepulchre. Dr. Robinson's remarks on this subject are aimed chiefly at Mr. Williams's book, he being, as is well known, a staunch stickler for all tradition. Dr. Robinson maintains, and we think with perfect success, that all tradition whatever respecting the Holy Sepulchre and other sites is absolutely worthless. Mr. Williams, therefore, is fairly answered. But still Mr. Fergusson feels aggrieved. It is well known that he is the author of a theory, as ingeniously defended as it was boldly stated, that the present so-called Mosque of Omar is no more or less than the actual church built by Constantine over the site of the Holy Sepulchre. To this Dr. Robinson replies by citing Eusebius, who speaks of the propylæa of the basilica of Constantine extending on the east of the same to the midst of the street of the market, which the Doctor argues can only apply to the present bazaar; and also a passage from the Bourdeaux pilgrim, who was undoubtedly an eye-witness, in the year A.D. 333. Mr. Fergusson now accuses Dr. Robinson of a forced or a mis-translation of Eusebius; and sets aside the evidence of the Bourdeaux pilgrim as a piece of obscure Latinity, which it most unquestionably is. He also accuses Dr. Robinson of ignoring the labours of Mr. Catherwood. After carefully reviewing the question, we are of opinion that Dr. Robinson does ignore to a great extent the labours and measurements of Messrs. Catherwood, Arundale, and Bonomi, though we must remember they have been published as yet only in a limited form in Mr. Fergusson's book; that he has overlooked some objections to the evidence of Eusebius and the Bourdeaux pilgrim, already published in the 'Topography'; and that throughout these "later researches" Dr. Robinson manifests a great disposition to maintain à l'outrance his previous opinions, neglecting to notice very much of what has been since written and discovered.

Dr. Robinson, at least, has made no new discovery: the questions at issue are left by him just where they were; and we must look for more accurate or more fortunate explorations, and more architectural knowledge of a special kind, to set at rest those doubts, the



very existence of which is a disgrace and a blot upon Christian traditions and Christian learning.

*The Bird.* By J. Michelet. (*L'Oiseau.*)  
Paris: Hachette and Co.

If science and observation are qualities essential to the naturalist, this book is a natural history without a natural historian. Professing to depict bird life in all its phases between the egg and the eyrie, the observations it records come chiefly at second-hand, and its science savours less of zoology than of psychology—that luckless scientific Cinderella whom her practical sisters are sufficiently willing to show to the corner, but whom they would be very loth to intrust with their housekeeping concerns. Perhaps the work is not really less estimable on this account; the regular treatises on the subject are already numerous, and it cannot be displeasing to listen now and then to the free utterances of an original mind. Nor would it be reasonable to expect the author of ‘Priests, Women, and Families,’ to seek a place among scientific men. It is surely sufficient that the historian should for a season have quitted wars for warblers—the realm of human passion and turbulence for one where nature commands universal order, and violence and rapine themselves obey eternal and unalterable laws—without at the same time submitting his native volatility of thought to the constraints of philosophic rule. Philosophic M. Michelet decidedly is not, however it may please him to prefix that epithet to his well-won title of historian. He is, indeed, very capable of developing the suggestions of a single idea. But to marshal separate ideas into one imposing body of reasoning, to pursue with perseverance a continuous train of thought, to effect the analysis of one circumstance or the synthesis of many—these tasks require a mental disposition to which his own presents no affinity whatever. We find in this work, accordingly, much description and little deduction; copious expatiation, without preciseness; a leading idea continually implied, its corollaries forcibly developed, but itself never expressed. Should the reader fail to seize it, he will never appreciate the book. To employ Calderon’s striking simile, he will resemble the deaf man who thinks the dancer mad, because he does not hear the tune on which the other’s movements depend.

It is, then, certainly to be regretted that M. Michelet should not have been more precise. In his splendour of conception, but obscurity of exposition, he resembles Mr. Ruskin, who is also very generally misconceived, because it has never pleased him to express his principles in few words. His manner of writing also recalls that of the illustrious Englishman, who, having once rightly or wrongly conceived that Art is just now going very sadly astray, sets up his own intuitions as a beacon, kindled into so splendidly unparalleled a blaze of enthusiastic diction that no one with any eye for brilliancy of effect can help gazing, admiring, and at least longing to draw nigh. In like manner, M. Michelet relies less on precision of reasoning than on magnificence of rhetoric—not the unimpassioned display of the sophist, but the genuine outpouring of a mind by nature only too emotional. This eagerness is perhaps all the greater for not being strictly confined to

the subject in hand, but frequently passing into that declamation and covert self-assertion natural to a man who has experienced unjustifiable annoyances, and whose present position is one of ill-disguised hostility to established power. The effect of this is to throw a light upon the author, but a haze upon his subject, through which we nevertheless discern the grand proportions of a bold leading idea. This, by no means the exclusive property of M. Michelet, but common to him with poetic natures all the world over, may be briefly defined as that of the solidarity of nature; the union and interdependence of all her kingdoms, and their interpenetration by a common spirit, of which they themselves, with all their glories, are but the exterior manifestation. Now, it is argued by writers of this school, the originating spirit or principle in question must of necessity be a mind. If so, the animate and sentient creatures it originates must themselves bear about with them the traces of mind. Consequently the physical science which deals only with externals helps the naturalist to fulfil but half his mission, which needs to be completed by a scientific inquiry into the tempers and dispositions of the inferior creation—in other words, by a consistent system of animal psychology.

So inveterate is our habit of viewing animals as machines, that these opinions will inevitably be at first regarded as considerably more strange than true. Why, it will be asked, credit animals with any character at all? Are they not the slaves of natural impulse and “blind instinct”? Do not entire species collectively present the same disposition? Observation says no. Let any one devote a little attention to his acquaintances’ pets, and he will discover, as we lately observed of the sea-anemones, that the individuals of the different species agree to differ, displaying as great a variety of disposition as their owners. He will find that the vague and unphilosophic term “instinct” is in fact made to cover as many diverse qualities as charity covers sins; and that, when employed in its ordinary acceptation, it cannot fairly be used to account for more than the animal’s method of meeting the physical necessities of its life, and has nothing to do with the finer varieties of temperament. To state our position briefly and plainly, all the qualities that are common to every member of any particular species belong to instinct; and everything that can only be predicated of individuals belongs to character. Instinct may very well teach every cat to catch her mouse, but cannot teach one to leap on your knee and another to run into a corner. These are varieties of disposition, and to investigate varieties of disposition is the province of psychology. Is it said that this can only apply to the higher animals? Our imperfect knowledge of natural laws teaches us at any rate their universality. Finding the rudiments of higher physical organizations in the simplest beings, we may infer traces of mental organization also, however at present invisible to our gross perception. That the study is uninteresting? The objection cannot come from a lover of Nature. That it is uncertain, fanciful, incapable of establishment on a secure foundation, but very capable of leading to wild speculation and grotesque absurdity of thought? Is not all this equally true of human metaphysics and psychology? Yet mankind would feel under small obligation to him who should make a *tabula rasa* of the

labours of all who have speculated from Anaxagoras to Schopenhauer.

As we have implied, M. Michelet indicates rather than illustrates his subject, and the spirit of his pages is more admirable than the matter. He tells us less what birds think than what he thinks of birds. The following passage, for example, describing the feelings of a nightingale eastward bound, is sufficiently picturesque, but strikes out few ideas that would not naturally present themselves to the mind:—

“Now I imagine that the poor little musician, whose song indeed is silent for a time, but whose native *ingegno* and delicacy of thought are his companions still, pauses and considers well before entering the long snare of the Savoy defiles. He suspends his flight at the entrance, and on the friendly cot I know so well, or in the sacred shade of the Charmettes, deliberates and says to himself: ‘If I pass by day they are all there, they know the season, the eagle pounces on me, I am dead. If I pass by night, the owl and all his horrible army of phantoms, with glaring eyes enlarging in the dark, will seize me, will bear me to their little ones. Alas! what shall I do? I will strive to avoid both night and day. In the gloomy hours of the morning, when frigid dews chill and dispirit the eagle in his eyrie—then, then, I shall pass unperceived. And if he sees me, I shall be afar ere he can move the heavy vans of his humid pinions.’ A good calculation. Yet who shall answer for twenty accidents? If he sets off in the night, he may meet an eastern wind, against which the efforts of his wings will be employed in vain.—Gods! it is already day. It is October, and these sombre mountain giants, already apparelled in their white mantles, show us by the contrast a black speck flying rapidly along their boundless snow. How dismal they are, these mountains; how sinister beneath their many-folded winding-sheet! \* \* \* An effort has saved him. Headlong he plunges, he falls into Italy. At Susa or Turin he seeks a nook; he reinvigorates his wings. He is now at the bottom of the gigantic Lombard basket, the great nest of fruits and flowers where Virgil heard him sing. The land has not changed; to-day, as then, the Italian, a stranger at home, the sad husbandman of another’s field, the *durus arator*, pursues the nightingale. The useful devourer of insects is proscribed as a devourer of grain. Let him then pass the Adriatic if he can; haply from isle to isle, in spite of the winged corsairs that sentinel every rock, he may arrive at kind and fertile Egypt, the sacred land of birds, where all find safety and nourishment, caresses and benedictions.”

This is just such fanciful prose as might be expected from an ingenious and sympathetic man, who need never have seen a nightingale, but to whom the bird stood, for the moment, as an emblem of innocent weakness seeking refuge from the tyranny of mere force. It wants those sharp effects of reality which it would doubtless have possessed had the writer himself viewed the dusky speck he describes as diminishing so swiftly across the snow, or picked up the exhausted emigrant “at the bottom of the gigantic Lombard basket.” It is fair to remember that the whole book is avowedly the work of a *dilettante*. Natural history has not been the pursuit of the author’s life, nor is it even a first love resought. Genius always reveres Nature; but the conversion of the worshipper into the hierophant has, in this instance, been the work of events. Louis Napoleon little knew that he was giving the birds an historian when he deprived the Parisians of a professor. Discharged from his public function, M. Michelet withdrew to rural scenes, and without relinquishing the historic pen, invoked the study of nature to fill up his leisure time. Very winning is the graceful, though slight, picture he gives us of

his present mode of life, especially of the idyllic hours devoted to natural history, in conjunction with Madame Michelet, to whom we are indebted for some charming pages of autobiography, and who appears to be such a personage as Tennyson's Lady Clare—never to be thought of apart from the doe that

"Dropt its head in the maiden's hand,  
And followed her all the way."

Like her spouse, she has something to tell us of the nightingale:—

"While yet a child I had felt this spell in our southern fields, in the fine starry nights, near my father's house. At a later period I felt it more deeply still, especially near Nantes, in the solitary orchard of which I have spoken above. The nights, less sparkling than those of the south, were lightly veiled with a balmy mist, pierced by the gentle glances of the stars. A nightingale nestled near the ground, under my cedar, in a spot nowise difficult to find. He sang from midnight till dawn, happy, visibly proud to be the only waking thing, and his the only voice that challenged the vast silence. Nothing interrupted him, until, towards morning, a sense of duty obliged our unpoetical but faithful sentinel, the cock, to warn the labourer of the approaching light. The other would persist awhile, seeming to say, like Juliet to Romeo, 'It is not yet near day.' His establishing himself so near us showed how little he dreaded us, and how secure he felt himself near two working hermits, very busy, very well disposed, and as full of songs and dreams as the winged hermit himself. We might watch him at our ease, now fluttering with his fledglings, now contending in song with a proud neighbour, who sometimes came to brave him. At length, I think, he rather liked us than otherwise, esteeming us the attentive auditors, amateurs, perhaps connoisseurs of his song. The nightingale needs appreciation and applause, he values our attention, and comprehends our admiration. I seem to see him near me still, ten or fifteen paces off at most, hopping about and measuring his advance by mine, always observing a distance that kept him out of reach, but within the range of ear and eye. His own eye, black and lively, gentle and fierce at once, with a certain dash of pride, would rest on me, from time to time, with an expression that evidently said, 'I am free and winged, and you can do nothing to coerce me. But I do not mind singing for you.'"

This passage is remarkable as being one of the few in the book that record the results of personal observation. Men like M. Michelet are not likely to write another 'Natural History of Selborne.' The country naturalist, to whom we must look to record those minutiae of animal existence from the combination of which a full idea of the whole subject can alone be obtained, must be a man of patience and reflection—qualities seldom co-existing with rhetoric and enthusiasm. His life is so quiet, so identified with the scene he describes, that the readers of his works come to consider him as a part of it. We feel that Selborne must seem more strange without White than without the Hanger. He is not a countryman, but the country; not so much a describer of Nature, as the organ by which Nature describes herself. And so he goes on, unobtrusively, with single-mindedness, half involuntarily and mechanically, until he finds with surprise that the simple record of his observations has made a book—that his dry notes of plants are a perennial nosegay—and that the honey-buzzards, which thought fit "to build on the fork of a tall tree about the middle of Selborne Hanger," have taken rank as legitimate historical characters. This is not the case with M. Michelet; attempting more, he effects less if we look to the abstract result, though his work may not appear much

inferior to White's if we consider that the one is the product of a leisure, the other of a life. We have already mentioned the leading argument of his book, and must acknowledge that he does not suffer it, once granted, to remain a barren result, but immediately proceeds to establish the corollary that, if all the realms of Nature are really bound together by one great chain, man, whose superior gifts entitle him to be regarded as a sort of trustee for the rest, does ill when he neglects to explore the constitution and develop the capabilities of any one, and worse when he treats with disdain or cruelty beings who are in fact his own relations somewhat removed. This is the true apology of the naturalist against those who consider his pursuits trifling, and of the poet against those to whom his inspiration is a dream. Some one is needed to state it with that eloquence without which no truth ever gains a hearing, and if M. Michelet has not quite done this, he has at all events shown the way.

#### *The Eighteenth Century; or Illustrations of the Manners and Customs of our Grandfathers.* By Alexander Andrews. Chapman and Hall.

STEAM, gas, and electricity have made us vain. Whenever we look back upon our "grandfathers," as Mr. Andrews erroneously calls the heroes of his book, some of whom flourished a hundred and fifty years ago, it is with a kind of supercilious pity. We have a common saying amongst us, "What would our grandfathers say, if they could rise from their graves, and witness our performances?" But while we thus, naturally enough, perhaps, exult in the scientific advantages we possess over our ancestors, it never occurs to us to look into the future, and ask, "What will our grandsons say, when they look back upon us and our performances?" Yet this would be a much more practical question than the other, because it would help to moderate our self-glorification, and to stimulate our zeal for improvement.

After all, is it quite certain that the people of the last century were so inferior to us in their lives and resources as this kind of lofty treatment of them implies? We have doubts upon that point. If we have made important advances in particular directions, there are some aspects in which the comparison is not altogether so favourable to us. Unquestionably the general picture of England in the eighteenth century, without being very precise about dates, is at once quaint and uncomfortable. It gives us a very uneasy notion of the inconveniences those excellent persons, to whom we owe all honour and reverence for the kindness they conferred upon us by becoming our progenitors, must have undergone in their movements from place to place, the shifts they must have been put to in their efforts to sustain the cost of dressing and entertaining up to the height of the prevailing extravagance, and the perpetual risk in which their precious lives must have been placed by the lawlessness of the age. We know that the streets of London were, for the most part, narrow, uncomfortable, and dark; that the foot-passenger was liable, as Dr. Johnson informs us, to meet the same sort of indignities and dangers from upper windows, scaffoldings, and loaded wains, as were prevalent in the times of Charles II., and even so far back as the age of Juvenal; that the country roads were generally so difficult of passage, in conse-

quence of ruts and sloughs and channels, worn deep in the winter, and left open in the summer, that progress was not merely slow, but attended by unavoidable accidents, such as the smashing of coaches, the maiming of horses, and the fracturing of human limbs; that the flying waggons, as one class of public conveyances was humorously designated, the post or stage coaches, and the machines, an appellation signifying another variety of public conveyance, emulated the energy of the tortoise, and detained our ancestors, happily unconscious of the brilliant destiny that was in store for their ungrateful children, days and nights upon journeys which we now execute in a few hours; and that both roads and streets were infested by highwaymen and thieves, who, with the utmost imaginable politeness, or the fiercest savagery, according to their breeding, demanded "your purse or your life," and made no scruple of taking the latter if they could not get the former. We know, also, that it must have taken a gentleman in those primitive days at least three hours to dress himself in the extremity of the fashion, and that the operations of a lady's toilette could not have occupied much less than double that time, and usually longer if we include the elaborate preparations of the head; that, what with perfumes and embroidery, tinsel and gold, satin and lace, precious stones and fanciful jewellery, brocaded petticoats and emblazoned stomachers, costly wigs and diamond-hilted swords, with a mighty range of details drawn from the four quarters of the globe, every gentleman and lady who made a figure in the world must have carried the wealth of a province from head to heel; that the fashionable people were terribly addicted to gambling, to the frequenting of auction rooms (the lineal successors of the china-houses of former times), and to the ordinary vices of intrigue, pursued rather with a desire for the notoriety of the thing, than from that inherent profligacy which marked a previous period; and that the duello was in high request, as the illogical method of argument adopted for the settlement of differences of opinion.

Now, our own times present a picture very nearly the reverse of all this. Our streets are generally wide, and lighted up with gas; the foot-passenger is tolerably safe; the country roads are pretty good; the flying waggons are abolished, and their place is supplied by locomotives; mounted highwaymen and gentlemen highwaymen, and romantic and heroic thieves of all denominations, are obsolete; gentlemen now-a-days dress in ten minutes, at a very small expense; and ladies, although the toilet is still, as it ever was and ever will be, a great consumer of time, are not quite so artificial in their "make-up"—patching and painting and fan-fluttering at least being gone out; gambling has degenerated into a vulgar vice; auction-rooms are no longer the resort of fashionable people, nor has any substitute been found for them; scandal has long ceased to seek notoriety in *des têtes-à-tête* of *Town and Country Magazines*; and the common sense of society has put an end to duelling. These are visible and undeniable improvements. But in reckoning up our gains, there are a few items to be deducted from the other side of the account.

The highwayman and the thief, who took advantage of bad roads and dark streets, and drove a profitable trade in the scientific wants of the age, are displaced by the burglar and the dexterous manipulator of the garotte.



The burglars of the crowded thoroughfare, who, in spite of our "trim policemen," break open houses, and carry off their valuables; the skilful robbers who, in spite of the second daylight of gas, strangle their man in the broad street; and the desperate ticket-of-leave murderer, who kills his victim under the very eyes of the passers-by, are characteristic products of the nineteenth century. It is true that formerly there were South-Sea bubbles and gigantic delusions of various descriptions; but we apprehend that the railway impostures of 1845, and the bank swindles and insurance-office frauds of a later day, transcend them a hundredfold in vastness and ingenuity. The annals of crime were bad enough in the time of Fielding and Smollett; but we may confidently advance the claims of our Palmers and Doves, our wife-beaters, children-slayers, and domestic poisoners to an infamous pre-eminence over those of all preceding delinquents. The subject is large, and runs into many channels of inquiry. But, merely glancing at the surface, it is evident that the nineteenth century, illustrious in art and science, has not so much to boast of on the score of morals as its historians would have the world believe.

Mr. Andrews' book does not throw much light upon the contrast which it constantly suggests, and the compiler is therefore less justified in assuming all throughout the absolute inferiority of the period whose modes and customs he has undertaken to illustrate. It was infinitely richer in literature, statesmanship, philosophy, and the drama, than Mr. Andrews seems to be aware; and had he entered on his labour with any higher view than that of collecting loose and vagrant materials out of magazines and newspapers, and other easily accessible sources, he would doubtless have modified his opinions. But the volume will not bear the application of any very strict critical tests. It does not pretend to be anything more than a museum of curiosities, "picked up," Mr. Andrews tells us, "upon the surface." This is a fair description of the book; only it should be added, that the curiosities, although classified under heads, are thrown together in each class without the slightest attempt at order or arrangement. Their value to the reader who desires to make any use of them in the way of application or reflection, is consequently very considerably diminished, if not altogether annihilated.

The fact, indispensable to be remembered in a work of this nature, that a century contains one hundred years, Mr. Andrews does not always keep before him. He treats the term as a whole, without sufficient attention to chronology in his details; as if a certain condition of things set in at the beginning of the century, and lasted uninterruptedly to the end. He apparently thinks that it is not very material whether an illustration be drawn from 1709 or 1790, provided only that it actually belongs to some part of the century; and it never occurs to him, while he is placing before us the means of comparison between a period of slow development and a period of progress, that there was actual progress of the most momentous character within the very division of time he is describing. The true value of such a compilation would be to show the course of that progress, and to trace the history of popular changes from the commencement to the close of the century. But Mr. Andrews frequently refers to dates without troubling himself about the chronological sequence, or, omitting them

altogether, leaves us to find our own way in the dark. He occasionally introduces an anecdote or description by observing, "At the time of which we are speaking," although of what time he is speaking, except that it is some time in the eighteenth century, we have not the most indistinct notion. In one place he tells us that it was a very prevalent practice among the ladies "in the last century" to take snuff, and that he has been "credibly informed that it was no unusual sight in a theatre for one-half of its female occupants to be tapping their snuff-boxes, while the other half were drawing out their painting boxes, and laying a fresh coating on their cheeks." The exaggerations of this passage may be allowed to pass; but it would have been desirable to let us know in what part of the century these curious customs prevailed. Was it immediately after the death of Dryden, in the Marlborough days; or was it so late as the French Revolution? The difference is important. We are told in a chapter describing the manner in which fashionable people passed their time, that "the evenings were spent, in the summer at Vauxhall, Ranelagh, or Cupar's Gardens; or, latterly, at the little theatre in the Haymarket." This would seem to apply to the latter part of the century, and, if so, Mr. Andrews has misled his readers. The "little theatre" in the Haymarket was opened in 1720, and was in high vogue when Fielding took it in 1735. The same passage goes on to say that the theatres patronized in winter were Drury-Lane and Lincoln's-Inn-Fields. Here we have a double mistake, which Mr. Andrews could not have fallen into had he paid a little more attention to dates. The great winter houses were Drury-Lane and Covent Garden, the latter of which was opened in 1732; while the theatre in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields was open only during the first half of the century, and was finally closed in 1756. This inaccuracy, which leads to many small blunders within the century, commits Mr. Andrews to some beyond his prescribed limits. Thus he illustrates the lotteries of the last century by a parody on a popular song got up as a puff by the late Mr. Bish some thirty years ago; and in speaking of the duels of the same period, he refers to Castlereagh's duel with Canning, which took place many years afterwards.

As the volume consists chiefly of extracts from old magazines, newspapers, and other ephemeral but not the less trustworthy chronicles of the age, our remarks refer only to those portions of it in which Mr. Andrews appears in his own person; and we are bound honestly to say that his original contributions, in the way of description and criticism, constitute the worst parts of the book. He would have done more wisely if, like Montaigne, he had brought nothing of his own to these scraps but the thread that binds them. His style is not favourable to historical portraiture, and he is entirely deficient in the power of generalization. His manner of dealing with topics when he intends to be pleasant and witty, is at best a kind of flippancy which might have been advantageously spared. He describes, for example, the westerly movement of Fashion, from such neighbourhoods as Holborn and Bloomsbury to Hanover-square and Pall Mall, as the consequence of the "city carrion treading on its toes." Even in these remote districts, we are informed, "Trade hotly pressed again, and Fashion fled in dismay to Tunbridge Wells" and other places, ultimately seeking "refuge"

in "despair" in more distant scenes—Paris, Brussels, Florence, where Fashion was still hunted by the London tradesman. This is rather a grandiloquent way of expressing a simple fact in the vital statistics of a great city, where the population is constantly outgrowing its space; but what follows, and winds up the moral, is the capping humour of this remarkable passage:—

"What will be the result of this cruel persecution we know not, but may expect the fashionable world will have to take refuge in the Arctic Region, where it will certainly be ice-elated enough, and whence it can send its fashions in 'furs and other novelties of the winter season,' by the returning whale-ships."

"The poet laureates of the eighteenth century," says Mr. Andrews, "were all marvelously fond of heroes, and, in their odes, successively beat each other in marvelling whether any of the heroes of antiquity could possibly have come near the king their master in courage, learning, or worth." After alluding to the political purposes to which the stage was turned, Mr. Andrews observes, "barring these abuses and venial errors, these were sunny days for the English drama." We are here informed also, not only of the "clever delineators" who acted the English drama, but of the "splendid geniuses" who "wrote it;" and amongst the latter we find included the Cibbers, the Sheridans, Charles Shadwell, Motteux, Allan Ramsay, and Dodsley the bookseller.

These specimens are sufficient to indicate the literary pretensions of the volume. But we should do Mr. Andrews an injustice if we did not give him credit for the industry with which he has collected his fragments. Although his compilation is valueless to the historical inquirer or the philosophical student, there are multitudes of readers to whom the information it contains will be new, and who will not be very critical about the mode in which it is conveyed. Such readers will find in this volume abundant entertainment concerning the state of society in the last century, coffee-houses and clubs, crimes and criminals (who occupy the lion's share of the work), popular superstitions, public conveyances, theatres, duels, roads, newspapers, trade, commerce, gambling, and costumes; and as the facts are principally derived from contemporary sources, their authenticity may generally be relied upon.

We will dismiss the book with a single extract, as a specimen of the amusing materials of which a portion of it is composed. The passage is *apropos* of the hoop of the last century, the rightful heir of the farthingale of Charles the Second's time:—

"Ho! ho! what buxom lady is this? or is it only the bust of a female placed upon the top of a sugar hog'shead? Nay, now we have it—it is the hoop, of which we have heard so often, that distends that costly petticoat, till at last it appears like a Mongolian balloon of respectable dimensions. We remember reading a humorous letter in an old magazine, in which a husband complains that he had lately married a lady of apparently comely proportions, who, in her *deshabille*, became a dwarf of scarcely four feet in height. And how, think you, gentle reader, did this deception arise? Her head-dress measured some eighteen inches, and the heels of her shoes elevated her to the extent of almost six more, so that when divested of these ornaments, which gave her the appearance of six feet of flesh and bone, she became reduced to little more than half that height. But her circumference decreased to a still more alarming degree on the removal of the hoops, and the stately



pyramid of silks and satins, which had stalked along all day, dwindled down at night to an insignificant pigmy of scarcely half the artificial size which she had assumed."

*Engravings of Unedited or Rare Greek Coins, with Descriptions.* By Lieutenant-General C. R. Fox. Part I. *Europe.* Bell and Daldy.

It is impossible for any real lover of ancient art to inspect a cabinet of Greek coins without joining in the eulogium of Eckhel on their marvellous beauty and variety. Not only in the currency of Sicily and Magna Græcia is this excellence apparent; it is almost equally conspicuous in that of the less-favoured regions of Thracia, Bithynia, and Caria; while of Boeotia and Arcadia, whose stupidity and rusticity have passed into a proverb, we have numerous coins from which modern mint-masters might obtain a hint and art-instructors a model. General Fox has long been known as an ardent admirer of Greek numismatic art, and the fortunate possessor of some of the finest examples. His object in publishing this catalogue is to show collectors what unedited coins his cabinet contains:—

"It is not my intention," he observes, "even were I competent to do so, to enter into questions or discussions that would require deep learning and great scholarship. To describe the coins accurately, to give such references as may be useful, to have engravings as correctly drawn as possible, is all I attempt. If I find that my hope of being useful to those who cultivate a science which has been a source of instruction and delight to myself for forty years is realized, I shall be satisfied, and feel amply repaid for my trouble and expense."

The fasciculus before us contains representations of 114 coins, many of them of much numismatic interest, and some of great beauty. They have been faithfully delineated by M. Dardel, a French artist, with the exception of the Siæulo-Punic coin, No. 39, where the bull should have a human face, typifying a river, as in the well-known money of Campania. The list commences with two coins of minute size, one bearing the head of Apollo, the other the mask of Medusa with the tongue protruded. These are assigned to Massilia, having, we are informed, been purchased with many others which came from that city. We are inclined to propose a new attribution, and to suggest that as Massilia is known to have been colonized from Ionia at a very early period, they may with greater probability be ascribed to the latter country.

Among the more curious types is the following of Perinthus, in Thracia:—

"Obverse.—Heads of Jupiter and Juno.

Reverse.—ΠΕΡΙΝΘΙΩΝ. Anubis bearing a palm-branch to the right. In the field, a monogram, and two half horses, joined, looking different ways."

This type invites the attention of the student of classical antiquity, and ought, if possible, to be illustrated. The appearance of such an exotic divinity on a coin of Thrace, is suggestive of religious and political changes in that province, of which traces may possibly be found in some ancient author.

Nos. 62, 63, 64, 65, are four interesting coins of Alexander the Great, with subordinate symbols, struck in the various provinces.

The coin No. 4, ascribed to Populonia, in Etruria, is a very singular monument of numismatic art, and a curious example of a symbolic type, of which it is difficult to suggest an explanation. It is thus described:—

"Obverse.—Chimæra leaning forward, seizing

some prey (apparently a bone), his mouth open and the tongue out, the tail extended over the back, at the end of which is the head of a dragon or serpent, with an arrow-shaped sting protruding out of it. The reverse is quite plain."

This remarkable piece weighs 252 grains. It resembles a coin, described by Millingen, from the Florentine cabinet; but in the latter the strange caudal termination is not discernible.

The singular pieces, Nos. 81, 82, 83, in the shape of fish, appear to be tesserae, and not money; if the latter, the reason for their being so designated ought to have been given.

There are several coins in this collection of types well known and of frequent occurrence, but valuable to the numismatic student for their subordinate symbols and minute peculiarities; for it is obvious that in such distinctions there is often a key to recondite meaning, and in the collocation of varieties thus presented illustrations to be sought for elsewhere in vain.

Our limits compel us to be brief, but we have said enough to show the value and interest of the first part of General Fox's catalogue, and we trust it will soon be followed by the sequel he has promised us.

#### *Punch's Pocket-Book for 1857.*

THE time of almanacs and annuals approaches, and Mr. Punch, with his characteristic eye to business, is first in the field. His publication may be divided into two parts—the Useful and the Funny—which parts may be subdivided into minor heads.

The Useful department contains the "usual information" about the state and the legislature, commerce, law, taxes, and public offices; sundry little tables concerning cab fares, wages, and marketing, the moon's phases, and stamp duties; an almanac, a cash account, with a liberal allowance of two tiny pages to a month; and ruled open spaces, giving something less than an inch to every day in the year, to enable the owner to record his thoughts or actions, or both, which open spaces are entitled a 'Diary and Memoranda,' but which should be entitled a 'Diary for Memoranda.' There is nothing to remark upon in this commendable routine of convenient particulars, except that Mr. Punch seems, in his mature age, to manifest symptoms of a serious turn in matters of religion, and to betray a strong inclination to cultivate the smiles of royalty. He is very careful, for instance, in his Diary to note down the saints' days, and to let us know when the Martyrdom of King Charles and the Gunpowder Plot took place, and when the general meeting of the Quakers is to be held in the ensuing year; and he informs us, with scrupulous regularity, when King Charles II. was restored, when the King of Hanover was born, and when the Princess Royal, the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, and the "rest of the royal family," were born. No possible objection can be urged against this kind of information; but it assumes some significance when we find it forming the staple of Mr. Punch's Diary. He certainly does note down, also, when grouse shooting begins and when it ends, and there are some flying hints here and there touching bourgeois' claims and objections; but Mr. Punch is neither a sportsman nor a bourgeois, he is evidently intent on graver and higher pursuits. If his biography should come to be written hereafter out of the revelations of his Pocket Book, it will be seen

that, in spite of all his pretences to the contrary, he was really a pious gentleman of high breeding, who, having cast off the jocular habits of his youth, affected great people towards the close of his career.

Of the Funny Department it is not so easy to speak with any degree of certainty. A distinguished authority tells us that the modes of sorrow are various, but that mankind have always laughed in the same way. It is with humility and deference we venture to doubt the correctness of this aphorism. We do not think that the sense of the ridiculous is bestowed in equal proportions on all readers of Mr. Punch's lucubrations, or that the capacity of being comical is given in a like degree to all Mr. Punch's contributors. For example, try the following jokes, which are here printed under the appropriate title of 'Sells,' and laugh at them if you can:—

"Why does Miss Rosina Wright dance with so much spirit? Because she has a soul to each of her feet."

"Why are the streets of London like thieves? Because they are always being taken up."

"Why had I better leave off these witticisms? Because the Editor won't put in any more of them."

The last appears to us, although anything but laughable, the only one of the three that makes an approach to a joke; and if the answer may be depended upon henceforth, the editor is a more sensible fellow than we suspected him to be. For the rest, we would merely observe, that they are not the only "sells" in the book.

In the following song, whether it excite laughter or not, we recognise a genuine spirit of humour applied to a very excellent purpose. Mr. Punch is here directing his finest powers of satire against those impostors who attempt to palm off upon the unconscious public a certain trickery of phrase as the true expression of scientific knowledge combined with poetical sentiment:—

#### "WILD SPORTS OF THE WATERING PLACE."

"I love to roam by the salt sea-foam,  
When the dolphins play and spring,  
And the mild sea-mew, and the stone curlew,  
And the stormy petrel sing;  
When the sea-gulls sweep o'er the pea-green deep,  
And whistle as they fly,  
And the cormorant proud shrieks out of a cloud,  
Between the waves and sky."

"The beach I tread—from its pebbly bed  
The living oyster catch,  
And the swift crab chase o'er the sand space,  
And the crafty lobster catch.  
The whelk I pursue, and the wrinkle too,  
Where the frantic billows roar,  
And the shrimp, and the prawn, with his red shell on,  
I hunt on the bold sea-shore."

There are other verses in the book; but none so good (allowing for the zoological blunder of live shrimps and prawns in red shells) as these, so neat, so close, or so effective. There are also prose tales or sketches, of a page and a half or so in length, hitting off some social peculiarities or traits of eccentricity, executed in Mr. Punch's well-known manner, and bearing as close a resemblance to former outlines of a similar class, as may be traced in the lineaments and personal habits of different members of the same family who have lived together all their lives. Whether Mr. Punch has exhausted his subjects, or worn out his zest for the stogy side of humanity; or whether he is really growing old and dull, we will not undertake to affirm. But it is plain to see that his 'Pocket Book' is by no means as lively as it 'used to be,' and that it stands greatly in want of a little fresh vitality, of newer topics, and newer ways of treating them. Readers are getting weary of the old traps for catching sunbeams, and beginning to confess amongst themselves that

there is such a thing possible as monotony and dreariness even in 'Punch.'

The favourite artists who have so long delighted the public by bringing the comicalities of the watering-place and the field into the drawing-room, are here to be found with little variation of their accustomed humour. You will know them at a glance, and fancy you must have seen them in these identical phases before. The frontispiece represents a young *belle* dressing for a ball in 1857, surrounded by a bevy of maids, who are attiring the half-dressed form in a frame-work of tubes, which one of the group is inflating by the aid of a pair of bellows. Two other *belles* are exhibited in different stages of the process, which is intended to show the prodigious expanse dresses are likely to attain under the new fashions. The humour of this sketch is however less striking than its beauty. The faces are full of that peculiar character of English witchery by which the artist may be at once recognised. In the small cuts scattered through the book, some of the old grotesque scenes are reproduced—awkward men making legs on bright carpets, fanatical-looking old ladies affecting the airs of youth, comically distorted figures fishing, as we have seen them fish in 'Punch Proper,' time out of mind, and many more familiar acquaintances, to whom we have taken off our hats as we passed through the pages.

*Modern Greece: a Narrative of a Residence and Travels in that Country; with Observations on its Antiquities, Literature, Language, Politics, and Religion.* By Henry M. Baird, M.A. Low, Son, and Co.

[Second Notice.]

Of the religious institutions and observances of the Greeks, and their ecclesiastical system, Mr. Baird has much to say, and his information on these points seems to have been procured with much labour, and may be regarded as authentic and trustworthy. The Hellenic at present is an independent branch of the Greek church, having formerly been under the control of the Patriarchate of Constantinople. After various revolutions consequent upon the disturbed state of political affairs, a new ecclesiastical arrangement is now established:—

"By a law framed in 1852, the ecclesiastical polity of the kingdom has been completely remodelled. It increased the episcopal sees to twenty-four—a large number, assuredly, for a population of scarce a million souls. To each of these is annexed a salary payable by the government, and varying from seven hundred to a thousand dollars. The Bishop of Attica was, at the same time, promoted to be Metropolitan of Athens. Measures were at once taken to fill as many of the vacant episcopal chairs as possible. In order to allay the vexation naturally entertained by the Patriarch and his Synod, in consequence of the indignity offered to them in the rejection of the 'Tome,' a special messenger was dispatched by the king, with full power to confer on the mortified ecclesiastics as many decorations of the honorary Greek 'Order of the Saviour' as might be found necessary; besides covering the insult with a profusion of empty compliments."

The theological aspects of the Hellenic church, and of the Greek as opposed to the Latin, are fully discussed; but we pass on to the more appropriate subject of modern Greek literature and education. In the latter there must be much to command attention, when an American from New York thus expresses his surprise and gratification:—

"The wonderful development that popular education has undergone is unknown to most; and few are aware of the existence of any schools of learning that will favourably compare with our own. When, therefore, I say that the University of Otho at Athens possesses at least as many students, and twice as large a corps of professors, as the largest of our colleges, I am stating a fact that may excite some surprise."

Along with Dr. King, the author visited the University, and was introduced to Constantine Asopius, professor of Greek philosophy:—

"A fine intellectual head, and a face indicative of that rare attainment—a placid old age, ruffled by no impatient or peevish disposition—attract the admiration and affection of all the students. In their welfare Professor Asopius takes a warm interest; nor is there any one of whom the student is more ready to ask counsel. It may, indeed, be remarked that in general the coldness and hauteur which mark the relation of teacher and pupil in many of our institutions is here replaced by a friendly and even familiar intercourse. Professor Asopius was evidently pleased at the idea that an American had come to Athens to find out what facilities this city afforded to those who wished to gain a thorough knowledge of both ancient and modern Greek. He expressed the hope that I might be only the forerunner of a multitude of American scholars, and cordially invited me to his lecture-room. His lectures on the Odyssey, and on philology, and the history of the Greek poets, are held in high esteem. I began to attend them as soon as they commenced; but the indistinct utterance of the speaker is a difficulty which meets me at the very threshold."

The extent of the library of the University of Athens is seen with surprise by the author:—

"I had anticipated seeing at most a few thousand books. The librarian, Mr. G. Typaldus, informed me that there were not less than 70,000 volumes, and that the annual increase was six or eight thousand. Nor does it consist of works of small value or merit. As far as my subsequent observation went, the selection seemed to be excellent; while some works—such as *Napoleon's Expédition d'Egypte*—are rare and costly. In the English department, however, the library is singularly incomplete; and with the exception of the Smithsonian Institute's 'Contributions to Knowledge' (of which the set is defective), there are no American publications of importance. This rapid rise of a collection of books which equals, if it does not exceed, any similar one in the United States, is the more astonishing as the outlay of money has been very small. Most of the additions have been by gifts of wealthy Greeks and foreigners, among whom I am sorry not to be able to mention the name of any American benefactors."

Descriptions of several of the professors are given, especially of Neophytus Bambas, who is since dead, and of Manousis, whose lectures on Universal History are always attractive, though his hostility to English influence is sometimes offensively displayed. The student life of Athens more resembles that of the Scotch universities than any other schools of learning:—

"There are no dormitories within the University, or *Panepistemon*; the students consequently lodge in various quarters of the town. Their rooms are generally shared between two occupants; and as the most of them are in reduced circumstances, the stock of furniture and books is very small. This fact, however, attracts little notice at Athens, from the rarity of large fortunes, and the simple style of living. The salaries of the employés of the government are singularly low—so low, indeed, as to be utterly insufficient for the maintenance of a respectable appearance, without the means derived from speculation and bribery. Yet the professors of the University, most of whom

are single men, without the exercise of any uncommon degree of frugality, contrive to live on salaries of six hundred dollars a year, and even to save some part of that sum: and even with such paltry emoluments, the highest ambition of many young Greeks is to occupy a chair in that institution."

For comparison with other universities, the following statistics of professors and students will be interesting:—

"The University is composed of four distinct Schools—those of Theology, Law, Medicine, and Philosophy. The whole number of professors whose names appear on the programme of studies published soon after my arrival, was forty-six; of whom twenty-five were ordinary professors, and the remainder extraordinary, honorary, and adjunct; the distinction consisting merely in the difference of the emolument they enjoyed, and not in the character of their instruction. All these gentlemen are native Greeks, with the single exception of Professor Landerer, who has long resided in the country, and is a naturalized citizen. One of the faculty is annually elected by his associates as *Prytanis*, or President; but the powers attached to this honourable post are very limited, and extend little farther than the delivery of an oration at the yearly Commencement in June. The *Prytanis* of the previous year had been the Archimandrite Misael Apostolides of the Theological School, a man of talent and high attainments, but thoroughly wedded to the Russian party. He was now to be succeeded by Mr. Pellican, one of the most prominent jurists and law professors of Greece."

"The distribution of instructors in the several departments was exceedingly unequal; as likewise that of the hours devoted weekly to the branches of study. In Theology the three professors gave but fifteen hours of instruction; while in Law there were eleven professors and upward of forty lectures; in Medicine twelve professors and between sixty and seventy lectures; and in Philosophy and the kindred studies twenty professors and eighty-two lectures. The total number of lectures delivered within the compass of a week was, consequently, more than two hundred, embracing every department of science and art. There is a similar inequality with respect to the apportionment of students in attendance. Of 397 regularly matriculated students, during a previous year, 242 were studying medicine, 86 law, 62 philosophy, and only 7 theology. And though the number had now increased to 455, the same inequality was still observable. Besides these students who were inscribed on the books, and who expected to pursue a regular course of study (the *phacteta*), there were at least three hundred more attending certain branches with greater or less regularity for a year or two, who receive the designation of *acroata*, or 'listeners.' It is a circumstance well worth the noticing, that rather more than one half of the matriculated students are from districts under the rule of the Sultan. Thus 'Free Greece,' as she is proudly styled, is furnishing to the millions of the same blood that are subject to the tyrant's sway, the benefits of a liberal education; and thus is she gradually preparing the way for their total emancipation from the shackles of ignorance and superstition."

The instruction is given wholly by written lectures. Of suitable text-books there is a deficiency, so that the students are dependent mainly on the notes taken down from the words of the lecturer. The examinations for honours and degrees are based on the professors' notes, so that the mechanical note-taking is the main work of the student in each class—not a favourable system for intellectual expansion or training. Admission to the classes is entirely free, and the system of gratuitous education extends to all the national schools throughout the country. The materials of this portion of Mr. Baird's book were received from official sources, and contain some statistical facts which have not before been published.



## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

*Memorials of the Lineage, Early Life, Education, and Development of the Genius of James Watt.* By George Williamson, Esq. Printed for the Watt Club of Greenock. *Roman Anthology; or, Selections of Roman Poetry, Ancient and Modern, being a Collection of National Ballads of Moldavia and Wallachia.* By the Hon. Henry Stanley. Hertford: S. Austin.

*Speeches of Eminent British Statesmen during the Thirtynine Years' Peace.* Second Series. Griffin and Co.

*The Vocabulary of Philosophy, Mental, Moral, and Metaphysical, &c.* By William Fleming, D.D. Griffin and Co.

*The Student's Manual of Medieval History, from the Fall of the Western Empire to the Close of the Fifteenth Century.* Edited by Isaiah McBurney, B.A., F.S.A. With Dissertations on the State of Europe, and on the Feudal System, by Colonel Procter, C.B. Griffin and Co.

*Engravings of Unedited or Rare Greek Coins: with Descriptions.* By Lieut.-General C. R. Fox. Part I. Europe. Bell and Daldy.

*Jonathan Oldaker; or, Leaves from the Diary of a Commercial Traveller.* By J. Crawford Wilson. Bentley.

*The Story of My Wardship.* By Mary Catherine Jackson. 3 vols. Bentley.

*The Friends of Christ in the New Testament: Thirteen Discourses.* By Nehemiah Adams, D.D. Nisbet and Co.

*Roband: a Masque.* By A. Maudslay. Whittaker and Co.

*Isa, and other Poems.* By Mary E. Leslie. London and Calcutta: G. C. Hay and Co.

*Punch's Pocket-Book for 1857.* Punch Office.

THE miscellaneous memorials of James Watt, printed for the Watt Club of Greenock, consist of a selection of papers and documents, collected by the late Mr. George Williamson, formerly president of the club. The most interesting are those which relate to Watt's early career, and his connexion with the west of Scotland in after life. In actual additions to the biographical facts about Watt, there is little of importance beyond what appears in Mr. Muirhead's work, published two years ago. (See 'L. G.', of 1855, pp. 19 and 54.) The exact spot where stood the house in Greenock, where the great man was born, is fixed by unquestionable legal documents and traditional evidence. That in the dame's school, where the boy got his first lessons, he was subjected to constant discipline of stormy scolding, and that at the grammar-school afterwards he was reckoned a dull youth,—these are as noticeable as any among the biographical gleanings now formally authenticated. In his younger days, Mr. Williamson received from old inhabitants of Greenock curious information about the social and domestic life of a past generation, and some slight notices of the family affairs of the parents of Watt are among these local chronicles. More interesting are some traditional proofs of the practical turn of Watt's favourite pursuits in early life. "A late master shipwright and blockmaker of Greenock, who, along with his father, had served an apprenticeship in the workshops referred to, mentioned to the author, among other interesting particulars relative to young Watt, that he remembered having been sent, when a boy, to clear out an attic room in his employer's house, where he found a quantity of such ingenious models as have been described, and which Mr. Watt, senior, told him had been, some years before, made by James, who was then in business in Glasgow. Among these models he remembered, in particular, a miniature crane and a barrel-organ." An account is given of the commercial and political aspect of the district of the Clyde a century ago, before the appearance of Watt heralded the new era of industrial power and mercantile wealth which now mark that country. A chapter on the rise of steam navigation on the Clyde is an authentic and elaborate narrative, and presents statements that may be useful for historical references, while suggesting matter for philosophical reflection. Among the illustrations that accompany the volume are portraits of Watt from the original pictures; that by J. Henning, in 1803, in possession of Mr. J. Gray, of Greenock, now engraved for the first time. A portrait of the celebrated Papin is given, from the original in the hall of the University of Marburg. An engraving of the famous model of Newcomen's engine will be valued by those who have not seen the original relic, preserved with sacred care in the University of Glasgow. Several manuscript letters of Watt are lithographed, among which the most interesting are those which

relate to the foundation of the Greenock Scientific Library, in which he took a deep interest, and sent a donation of books for the commencement, which he said "will render our townsmen as eminent for their knowledge as they are for their spirit of enterprise." With the general outline of Watt's life every one is familiar, through the Memoirs of Arago and Brougham, and the many popular biographies that have since appeared. Mr. Muirhead's book, though not professing to be a formal biography, gives a very full sketch of the life, introductory to his describing "the origin and progress of the mechanical inventions" of James Watt. He had great advantages in the possession of the family archives, placed in his hands by the executors, on the death of the late Mr. James Watt, in 1848, who had long contemplated editing his father's papers. In the work of Mr. Muirhead, comprising selections from Watt's correspondence, and in the present Greenock Memorials, are materials which might be turned to use for a biography worthier of the fame of Watt, even than the 'Eloge' by Arago, could there be found an author capable of delineating the intellectual character of the man, as well as describing his mechanical inventions. Black could have done it, or Robinson, or Playfair. Brewster is almost the only man now familiar with the story of Watt's inventions, and capable of doing his countryman justice in regard to questions in which his originality has been questioned. Except a biographer of such a stamp can be found, we must be satisfied with the less formal but authentic memorials that have been published, any new facts of importance in which might be well adopted for illustrative comments or notes in new editions of the Memoirs by Arago and Brougham.

The second series of the select speeches of Modern British Oratory includes the time from the passing of the Reform Bill to the commencement of the Russian war. If in the eloquence of this period there is less of rhetorical display and animated debate, the subjects are not less important in their bearings upon national prosperity and human progress. First we have Mr. Macaulay's speech on the Repeal of the Union with Ireland, Feb. 6, 1832; then the speech of Mr. Stanley, May 14, 1833, on Slave Emancipation, and that of Lord Brougham, on the Apprenticeship System in the West Indies, Feb. 20, 1838; Lord Althorp on the Renewal of the Bank Charter; Mr. O'Connell on Justice to Ireland; Mr. Sheil on Irish Municipal Reform; Mr. Villiers on the Corn Laws; Lord Melbourne and the Earl of Ripon on the Penny Postage Bill; Sir Robert Peel on the Repeal of the Corn Laws; Lord Palmerston on the Affairs of Greece; and Lord Lyndhurst on the Russian War. These memorable speeches recall some of the great events that have successively occupied public attention during the last twenty years, as the speeches in the former series dealt with the leading events from the peace of 1815 down to the passing of the Reform Bill. Whether as illustrative of British history or of political eloquence, this manual of select speeches is a valuable book equally for the student and the statesman. Both for the importance of the matter, and the manner in which the subjects are handled, these records of British eloquence may well excite feelings of patriotic pride, and their collection in the present form cannot fail to have useful influence on the studies of those by whom the destinies of this great empire are to be hereafter sustained.

In the Vocabulary of Philosophy, by Professor Fleming, of Glasgow, a work is provided which will prove of great service to students. The plan of a dictionary being taken, the author gives under each head short statements and explanations, with quotations and references illustrative of the subject or explanatory of the terms. All the technical words met with in treatises on metaphysics, logic, and ethics, as well as others of wider occurrence in philosophy, are explained in Professor Fleming's dictionary, and the citations from original authorities are generally judicious and appropriate. There is no work occupying exactly the same ground, and it supplies a book of reference which all students of philosophy should possess.

The Student's Handbook of Mediæval History, edited by Mr. McBurney, of Glasgow, forms a most useful portion of the historical series of volumes in the cabinet edition of the Encyclopædia Metropolitana. From the fall of the Western Empire to the close of the fifteenth century, is the period embraced in the work, which presents in a compact and accessible form the results of the labours of Hallam, Guizot, and the learned authors who have investigated and elucidated the history of the middle ages. The volume is arranged alphabetically and chronologically for convenience of reference. Two elaborate dissertations, by Colonel Procter, on the State of Europe at the Fall of the Western Roman Empire, and on the Rise, Growth, and General Features of the Feudal System, are prefixed, and form a valuable accompaniment to the more technical part of the work.

Portions of the story of Jonathan Oldaker; or, the Diary of a Commercial Traveller, appeared under another title in the pages of 'Bentley's Miscellany,' and they well deserve to be extended and republished, as they now are, in a separate form. In an easy and flowing style, Mr. Wilson discusses a number of topics of current interest, interspersed with descriptions of scenes and places to which the narrator of the tale is supposed to travel in his professional vocation. Some of the chapters, such as that upon Edinburgh, contain most graphic descriptions of well-known localities, and amusing varieties of character are delineated in this and other scenes of the story. If this is a first attempt in prose, as the author represents, he will prove a welcome accession to the force of our writers in light literature.

## New Editions.

*Essays, Critical and Imaginative.* By Professor Wilson. Vol. II. Blackwood and Sons.

*The Poets of the Nineteenth Century.* Selected and Edited by the Rev. Robert Aris Willmott. Routledge and Co.

*The Sabbath, Sabbath Walks, and other Poems.* By James Grahame. Illustrated by Birket Foster. Nisbet and Co.

*The Rise of the Ancient Mariner.* By Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Illustrated. Sampson Low, Son, and Co.

*Mediæval Philosophy; or, a Treatise of Moral and Metaphysical Philosophy from the Fifth to the Fourteenth Century.* By F. Denison Maurice, M.A. Griffin and Co.

*Headaches, their Causes and their Cure.* By Henry G. Wright, M.D. Second Edition. John Churchill.

THERE is less of the critical and more of the imaginative in the second volume of the 'Essays' of Professor Wilson, collected from 'Blackwood's Magazine.' The poetry of Tennyson, Bryant, and Ebenezer Elliott, offers little scope for any noble writing akin to that in the first volume on the 'English satirists,' Dryden, Johnson, Cowper, and other men of a stature rare in later times. Yet on these lesser poets Wilson has written as no other critic could have done. What fulness of meaning in the few words with which he opens his review of Ebenezer Elliott—"All poets are poets of the poor!" And on Tennyson, he starts with a paradox amusingly dwelt upon—to wit, that "Almost all men, women, and children, are poets, except those who write verses." It is interesting now to read what Wilson thought and said of Tennyson in 1832, when his lyrical poems first appeared. Some of the pieces are praised, especially 'Orana,' and 'Isabel,' and 'A Dirge,' and 'Haroun-Al-raschid.' But for the most part the criticism is mercilessly severe, and little did Wilson think of the possibility of the young poet's future fame when he thus spoke of him—"One of the saddest misfortunes that can befall a young poet is to be the pet of the coterie, and the saddest of all, if in Cockneydom. Such has been the unlucky lot of Alfred Tennyson. He has been elevated to the throne of Little Britain, and sonnets were showered over his coronation from the most remote regions of his empire, even from Hampstead Hill." Jeffrey was not more severe on Byron's 'Hours of Idleness' than Wilson on Tennyson's youthful lyrics, and in both cases the rod doubtless proved of some service. Professor Ferrier, who as editor rarely obtrudes any notes of his own, cannot refrain from prefixing to the review of Tennyson a sort of apologetic preamble, explaining how the bard of Little Britain became the Laureate of Great Britain.



"When this Review was written, Mr. Tennyson had published none of those grander and more finished compositions which have given him a place among the immortals. His early volumes contained several pieces which his own good sense, confirmed perhaps by the animadversions of his reviewer, has induced him to expunge from the standard edition of his works. This must be borne in mind, in order that the critic may be acquitted, on the one hand, of undue severity, and, on the other hand, may get credit for the sagacity with which he predicts, in no uncertain terms, the advent of a genuine poet, who only required to be true to his own genius to secure the highest honours of his vocation. The republication of these trifles, and of the strictures to which they gave rise, will certainly detract nothing from the fair fame of the illustrious Laureate; while it may be profitable to some, and must be interesting to all, to mark the slight blemishes which obscured the early rising of a star which now shines the brightest in the firmament of living English Poets." Besides the literary papers, there is in this volume a review of the life of Admiral Sir Henry Blackwood, with notices of the exploits of the British navy in the great war; and also an article on the punishment of death, in which the whole argument is ably discussed, the side of justice being taken against sentimentalism. But the treasures in this volume are the papers on Angling, and Christopher at the Lakes, in which John Wilson gives full play to his freest, richest flow of poetry, sentiment, and humour.

A treatise on Mediæval Philosophy may at first seem to offer little attraction except to cloistered students or speculative men of leisure. For them the name of Mr. Maurice is sufficient guarantee for, at least, the learning and ability with which all the moral and metaphysical questions of mediæval times will be discussed. As a narrative of the chief occupations of the learned from the fifth to the fourteenth century, the work is a valuable historical manual. Many of the subjects have an ecclesiastical and religious bearing, for in those days the learned and the clergy were almost synonymous. But Mr. Maurice gives the philosophy as well as the history of mediæval speculation and controversy, and dwells upon topics of universal interest and perpetual relation to human life and action. Between mediæval and modern life and history there are more points of living contact than those imagine who have been taught to pass lightly and hurriedly over the records of what are often ignorantly called "Dark Ages." Beginning with Boethius, he describes the Latin philosophy between the age of Augustine and that of Gregory the Great. From Gregory to the beginning of the tenth century is the second epoch. Then the eleventh century, in which the influence of the Mohammedans began to be powerful in Europe; Lanfranc and Anselm belong to this period. In the twelfth century, Abelard is the greatest name in philosophy. The story of Abelard and Heloise is narrated with much power and feeling. Of the Didascalion of Hugo, the Sentences of Peter Lombard, and the Polycratic of John of Salisbury, an account is given in this chapter. In the thirteenth century we have the rise of the mendicant orders, the philosophy of Albertus Magnus, of Thomas Aquinas, of Bonaventura, Duns Scotus, Roger Bacon, and Raymond Lully.

#### Miscellaneous, Pamphlets, &c.

*Schnorr's Bible Pictures. Scripture History Illustrated in a Series of Woodcuts from Original Designs.* By Julius Schnorr. First Series. Williams and Norgate.  
*New Farmer's Almanac for 1857.* By John C. Morton. Blackie and Son.  
*Proceedings of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool, during the Forty-fifth Session, 1855-56.* Printed for the Society.  
*The Golden Legend, a Tale of Lothbury; and other Poems.* Edited by Plutus, Junior. Simpkin and Co.  
*Investigations into the Primary Laws which Determine and Regulate Health and Disease.* By Jacob Dixon. Piper and Co.  
*First Steps in Photography.* By Gilbert Fleming. Gilbert Fleming.  
*Maynooth.* By a Protestant. John Chapman.

The first series of the popular illustrations to the Bible, by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeldt, the direc-

tor of the Dresden gallery of pictures, has now appeared in this country in a complete volume. Every one, we presume, will acknowledge the importance of regulating with the utmost care the first "aids to the imagination" of a child. The subject is too trite and obvious to need more than a passing hint. Those, at least, whose endeavour it has been to obliterate the early impressions made on the fancy by hobgoblin stories and monstrous woodcuts, will acknowledge that the length and difficulty of the task of unlearning are exactly proportioned to the intuitive rapidity of conception. Years are occupied in trying to undo the work of a single second. Sensitive as the photographic paper, the virgin page of mind is often more tenacious; the pictures it receives are more indelible. This may be carried farther; and it may fairly be supposed that the first picture presented to the eye of a child who is already familiar with the scene by description, may be made final or suggestive, general or particular, according to the teacher's pleasure. Outlines would probably operate more strongly upon the inventive faculty than shaded and finished drawings; and the adoption of a general type for the same class of character—angel, king, patriarch, warrior, &c.—would perhaps lay a broader and firmer foundation for mental self-exercise than any attempt at individual portraiture or national costume. Children's first pictures, in short, should be made as much as possible like skeleton maps; and every object present its distinguishing features, to the exclusion of those it has in common with its class. Schnorr's designs are already famous for preserving these qualities to a greater extent than others; and their reputation, we are informed, is even greater in Germany than here. There is, of course, a considerable diversity; and all are not equally successful, not so much so as designs by the same hand generally are; but one great merit they possess—they are not, like Overbeck and his school, with all its parade of sentiment, cold and meagre. These drawings have life in them; the only approach to a fault being the occasional tendency to over-crowding and confusion, as in the *Israel goeth into Egypt*, and the *The Death of the First-born*, and some others—designs which would not fix the eye of a careless child, and which it would take that of a clever one to unravel; but this is rare. The attempt to follow in the steps of traditional representation, retaining every really catholic feature, and rejecting each sectarian variety of rendering, is very commendable. The best originals have been studied throughout, and the only wonder is that compositions which owe so much to foreign sources should have so much vitality. In describing a miraculous event, the *Crossing of Jordan*, the artist has evidently been put to extremes to represent the watery walls, and has recourse to the expedient of showing some fish in them, according to the Assyrian mode, and that of the early woodcuts of the middle ages. The infancy of art is thus copied for the instruction of the infancy of mind—with what success is perhaps problematical. The 'Bible Pictures' are sixty in number, from scenes in both the Old and New Testament, and the first series is now complete. A second series is announced to appear in the course of next year. There are many more of these plates deserving individual and particular attention; but as they ought to be in the possession of every family, and from their great cheapness are within the reach of all, it will be unnecessary to describe them further. The German publisher, we understand, intends to give at the close of the series a complete descriptive text, which will be most acceptable, as the letter-press hitherto has been the least successful part of the undertaking. This description will appear in the Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Bohemian, Polish, German, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Hungarian, and English languages.

The *New Farmer's Almanac*, edited by John C. Morton, author of the *Cyclopædia of Agriculture*, and other well-known publications, contains special information on a variety of subjects most important for rural cultivators. The calendar of

farm and garden operations, the notes on the management of stock in health and in sickness, and miscellaneous hints and receipts, render the book as practical as possible. A monthly record of agricultural events in 1855 affords valuable matter for comparison and study. Altogether this almanac is a great improvement upon the rude astrological manuals which satisfied British farmers in other days.

The Proceedings of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool during the session 1855-56, along with official reports and routine documents, comprise various papers of general interest both in literature and science. Notes on a Dredging Excursion to the North Cape, by Robert Macandrew, F.R.S.; On the Cultivation of Mosses, by the Rev. H. H. Higgins, M.A.; On Ice Impediments to Australian Voyages, by J. T. Townson, Esq.; On the Coal Measures East of Liverpool, by Mr. G. H. Morton; On the Useful Products of the Palmaceæ and of the Gramineæ, by T. C. Archer, Esq.; On Magnetic Variation, by W. W. Rundall, Esq., are the titles of some of the scientific contributions in this number. In the department of History and Literature, there are papers on the Poetry of Common Life; on Tennyson's Maud; on the Strange Vicissitudes of Fortune of Jasper, Earl of Pembroke, in the fifteenth century; and a Defence of the Character of the Emperor Tiberius, by Dr. Ihne, in which the author attempts to show that the insinuations and aspersions of historians have been unjust, and that Tiberius had many points of true greatness and generosity. The discussion will interest historical students.

"A facetious contemporary," which is, we believe, the accepted periphrasis for 'Mr. Punch,' has several times thrown out dark allusions to a mysterious personage styled "Our Rejected Contributor." We cannot help suspecting that it is to this individual that we are indebted for the pieces published under the name of 'Plutus Junior,' compositions that seem as if they had gone about knocking at the inhospitable doors of all the comic journals till the despairing author printed them himself. The principal among them, styled the *Golden Legend*, is intended as a satire on the mismanagement of the Royal British Bank. In this sense the legend may be golden, but the idea of its being worthy of publication indicates an ample stock of a less precious metal. Brass on the forehead, however, says the author of the *Falcon Family*, is equally efficacious with iron in the hand or silver on the tongue to convey gold into the pockets; and it is no less true than strange, that the author has contrived to obtain advertisements from eighteen assurance companies, which deserve our thanks for having contributed by far the most readable portion of the book.

The short treatise on Photography would be a wonderful production if it accomplished what it professes,—viz., "enables the beginner to produce positive and negative views or portraits, &c." This is taken from the title-page, which proceeds as follows,—"To which is added simple directions." But, in spite of grammar, Mr. Fleming, who is himself a photographic instrument maker, puts together some useful information on the subject, condensed from Mr. Delamotte's manuals, at which, as the artists say, he has been "looking very hard."

The pamphlet on Maynooth, by a Protestant, defends the grant to that college, on the ground of the right of all who contribute to the public treasury receiving a proportionate share of the grants made for religious or educational purposes. The writer maintains that the just principle in regard to education is, either no state endowment, or endowment for all sects, according to their various numbers and necessities.

#### List of New Books.

Adam's Sacred Allegories, small 4to, cloth, 21 5s.; morocco, 21 18s.  
Addison's (J.) Sister Kate, 12mo, cloth, 6s. 6d.  
Aquilari's (Grace) Vale of Cedars, 5th edit., fcap., cloth, 6s.  
Alford's (H.) Quebec Chapel Sermons, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.  
Berth's (A.) Christ our Life, 12mo, cloth, 5s.  
Brutusiana, royal 8vo, cloth, 21 4s.  
City (The) Banker, 3 vols. post 8vo, cloth, 21 11s. 6d.  
Comforter (The), 18mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.

Copper's Life, by Cheever, post 8vo, boards, 1s. 6d.  
 Dalton's (J.) Memoir, by R. A. Smith, 8vo, cloth, 7s.  
 De Montgomerie's (P. V. G.) Hours of Sun and Shade, fcap., cl., 2s. 6d.  
 De Montgomerie's (P. V. G.) Hours of Sun and Shade, fcap., cl., 1s. 6d.  
 Edwards's Key to Book-keeping, crown 8vo, cloth, 4s.  
 Ellis's (Mrs.) Hearts and Homes, Vol. II., fcap., cloth, 2s. 6d.  
 Erymology made Easy, 18mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.  
 Fennell's (W.) Vocabulary of Philosophy, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.  
 Frost (Lieut. G.) Unedited Greek Coins, 4to, sewed, Part I., 7s. 6d.  
 Fuller's (Dr. H. W.) Rheumatism, 8vo, cloth, 2nd edit., 12s. 6d.  
 Good-natured Giant, cloth, gilt, illustrated, 2s. 6d.  
 Graham's Sabbath, and other Poems, 18mo, square 8vo, 10s. 6d.  
 Green's (Rev. E.) Marlowe's (E.) Poems (Bell's Poets), cl., 2s. 6d.  
 Grimm's (J.) Russian Popular Tales, post 8vo, cloth, 5s.  
 Happy Sunday-Book of Painted Pictures, 3s. 6d.  
 Handcastle's Genealogical Text-Book of British History, cl., 2s. 6d.  
 Hewlett's (Rev. E.) Sermons, 12mo, cloth, 3s.  
 Hick's (W. H.) County Cuts and Costs, crown 8vo, cl., 2s.  
 Interview (The), companion volume to Inquire Within, cl., 2s. 6d.  
 Jones's (J.) Christian Meditations, 12mo, cloth, 5s. 6d.  
 Jones's (Rev. J. B.) Inspiration a Reality, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 4s.  
 Lynch's (T. T.) Lectures, 2nd edit., fcap., cloth, 2s. 6d.  
 Marvels; or, Facts in Fairy Form, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.  
 Manders's Treasury of Geography, cl., 10s.; roan, 12s.; clif, 12s. 6d.  
 Morgan's (Lady) Wild Irish Girl, 12mo, cloth, 2s.  
 Powell's (Rev. H.) Unity of Worlds, 2nd edit., crown 8vo, cl., 12s. 6d.  
 Reid's (Capt.) Young Voyagers, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 2nd edit., 7s.  
 Forest Exiles, new edit., 7s.  
 Robertson and Prescott's Charles the Fifth, 2 vols., 8vo, cl., 21 4s.  
 Smith's (J.) Voyage and Shipwreck of St. Paul, crown 8vo, 8s. 6d.  
 Song (The) of Solomon, new edit., crown 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
 Stanley's (Hon. H.) Rouman Anthology, 8vo, cloth, 21 4s.  
 Thomson's (G.) Metry and Rhythm, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.  
 Trench on Words, 7th edition, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
 Trollope's (W. A.) Girihoud of Catherine de Medici, post 8vo, 10s. 6d.  
 Turner's Proverbial Philosophy, square 18mo, cloth, 5s.  
 Yenn's (H.) Compleat History of Man, new edit., 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
 White's (C.) First Lessons in Greek, 5th edit., 12mo, cloth, 2s.

## ARTICLES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

## SALARIES OF SCIENTIFIC MEN.

THE question of State endowment of science and its cultivators in Great Britain, has often been mooted, and the example of foreign countries has been urged in support of the proposal. Sir David Brewster, in his *Life of Newton*, publishes a remarkable document found among the 'Portsmouth Papers,' containing a plan "for establishing the Royal Society" on a system analogous to that now exhibited in the French Institute. The biographer of Newton, who has always been a strenuous advocate of such a scheme, zealously comments on a proposal backed by so high an authority. He urges that the Royal, Astronomical, the Linnean, the Geological, the Zoological, and Geographical Societies, together with the Institution of Civil Engineers, and the Museum of Practical Geology, should all be merged in one Institute or Academy of Sciences, divided into departments, each with a certain number of members, salaried by the State, and bound to devote their time and labour to the public service. Sir David Brewster advocates this on grounds of public economy, as well as for the advancement of science and the advantage of scientific men. He says that, at present, large sums are annually spent, often wastefully, in paid commissions, for inquiries and works, which would be effectually done by members of a national institute. "Every question," he says, "connected with ship-building, our steam navy, our light-houses, our harbours, our railways, our mines, our fisheries, our sanitary establishments, our agriculture, our statistics, our fine and useful arts, would be investigated and reported on by a committee of Academicians; and while the money of the State would be thus saved, the national resources would be augmented, and all the material interests of the country, under the combined energies of her art and science, would advance with a firm and accelerated step."

The time has not come for so large a scheme being entertained by the British Government, nor is there among men of science unanimity of opinion as to the desirableness of its being carried out even if practicable. The feeling of many is, that it is more consonant with the spirit of this country to leave science to its own free development, unfettered by State patronage and State control. Be this as it

may, there are points on which unquestionably the aid of Government to a greater extent than at present may be reasonably expected and profitably extended. Some of these are obvious, such as the amount of the pecuniary grants given for scientific observations and researches, having bearings upon the public service, and the assistance afforded in geographical explorations and geological surveys. But these are objects of special occurrence, and leave unsettled the question which was brought forward at the last meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, "whether any measures could be adopted by the Government or Parliament that would improve the position of science and its cultivators?" This query was suggested by the Reports of the Parliamentary Committee, in transmitting copies of which to the members of the General Committee, the Council requested an expression of opinion on the subject. In reply to this invitation, the following letter has been printed for private circulation by the Keeper of the Zoological Department of the British Museum. Dr. Gray, it will be seen, is a strenuous opponent of State endowment of science on a large scale, as proposed by Sir David Brewster; but he is equally strong in his statements as to the inadequate recognition by the Government of services actually rendered and work done by scientific men in its employment. About this there will be no difference of opinion among those who consider Dr. Gray's temperate and clear statement of the case.

"British Museum, 24th Sept. 1856.

"SIR,—In reply to your circular of the 20th of August, I beg to observe, in reference to the questions on which my opinion is asked—

"First, that I am firmly convinced that the position of science in this country will be best improved by its being left entirely unfettered by any interference on the part of Government or of the Legislature; by giving it, in short, 'a fair field and no favour.' I have no doubt, under such circumstances, of science maintaining and improving the high position and the great practical importance which it has attained in this country, and which, in my opinion, are superior to those which it has reached in any other.

"Secondly, in regard to the position of the cultivators of science, I would in like manner deprecate any direct action of the Government; for I should be most unwilling to see the great body of scientific men in this country converted, as in the despotic states of the Continent, into servants and pensioners of the Government, and dressed out in orders and other gewgaws, in order to render their dependent position palatable. For the same reason, I should regret to see the number of scientific offices under the Government increased. I think it, however, highly desirable, at least before an increase is made,—and it is to this point that I would specially direct attention,—that scientific men now holding office under Government, or under private Societies, should be fairly remunerated for their labour, their remuneration bearing a just proportion to that of other public employes. The ground for this is sufficiently obvious. The offices held by scientific men are generally quite as laborious, and require quite as much general knowledge, as other official situations, with the super-addition of a special scientific education. But the salaries of such offices are almost universally calculated on a much lower scale; and thus advantage is taken of the love of his subject, inherent in a man of science, to exact from him a sacrifice which would not be expected from any other professional person, civil, military, or diplomatic.

"I believe that this under-payment of scientific offices arises chiefly from the peculiar position of science in this country, and from the want of professional *esprit de corps* among its followers. It is

hardly necessary to say, that a man's social position (except among his own peculiar class) is chiefly determined by his income; and as very few scientific men (exclusive of those by whom science is applied to practical purposes) depend upon science for their means of living, they can scarcely be said to form a profession among us. All our scientific Societies are self-supporting, by means of the contributions of their members; and their officers and councillors are for the most part, if not entirely, honorary. The same may be said of the governing bodies of all the Government scientific institutions, with the exception of one or two of those most recently established. Take, for instance, the British Museum and the Royal Observatory, in which the governing power resides in a Board of Trustees or of Visitors, whose appointments are purely honorary: on the other hand, those who follow the study of science as a profession are almost restricted to the paid officers of these institutions; and their salaries are determined by those honorary office-holders who, from the difference in their social position, are generally very much disposed to regard professional men of science as belonging to another and a lower grade. This want of sympathy I believe to be the principal cause of the difference in position of the professional man of science in this country and abroad, and of the difference in the amount of salaries of scientific and other Government employes here.

"In almost all other Government offices, the salaries are determined by the heads of the office, who have themselves generally entered as juniors, and have regularly passed through the different grades: they have consequently acquired the necessary experience to enable them to judge, in the same manner as private merchants and others, what is the fair rate of remuneration for the several stages of a life passed in their department of the public service. A simple statement will illustrate the difference between the practice of these offices and that of the scientific institutions referred to. In public offices generally, the clerk enters first at an early age, and at a small salary, which receives an annual increase until he passes into another class, to which a higher scale of salary is attached, and in which he also receives periodical additions; and this continues through several stages of advancement, during which his pecuniary position is constantly improving,—as is proved by the extracts of official salaries added as an appendix. In the scientific establishments, on the other hand, he very soon comes to a stand, and a rate of remuneration at which it is quite impossible that a family can be supported in this country in anything like a respectable position. Take the British Museum for an example. The assistants of the several departments receive on their first appointment 150*l.* per annum; after two years and a half, 180*l.*; and after five years' service, 215*l.*; and at this rate they may remain for life, unless they happen to become senior assistants of the department, when (if they have also been fifteen years in the service) they become entitled to 245*l.* per annum. The salaries of the subordinate officers of the Royal Observatory are equally disproportioned to the social position which men ought to occupy who stand in such a relation to the science of the nation, all of whom have qualified themselves by much study for their respective offices, and many of whom have passed with much credit through the universities, and enjoy a high reputation in the world of science.

"Now it is my decided opinion that it is not the Government which is to blame for the low degree of consideration manifested for the scientific employes of the nation; but that their position is entirely due to a want of sympathy on the part of the honorary leaders in science towards their professional brethren. I am convinced, from my experience in public affairs, that neither the Government, nor much less the House of Commons, would object to the fair and proper remuneration of scientific men, if the trustees, boards of visitors, or other honorary officers superintending the various public scientific institutions, and whom the Government naturally regards as their proper guar-



dians, would suffer themselves to take a more liberal view of the subject, and fairly represent the case to Her Majesty's Treasury.

"We frequently hear the complaint made, that among the students of science there are few who take up its pursuit with earnestness and devotion, the great majority contenting themselves with a smattering; and also that the scientific professorships are not remunerating. Both these circumstances are the natural results, as it appears to me, of the evil to which I am anxious to direct attention. How can it be expected that young men should pay for instruction, and devote their whole attention to qualify themselves in a study the remuneration for which (in the few official situations connected with it) is vastly inferior to what may be acquired by the devotion of much less time and talent to almost any other kind of occupation? The remedy evidently lies, not in increasing the number of professors, but in fairly recompensing the holders of scientific offices, and thereby rendering those positions desirable as a means of securing a respectable living. Yours truly, &c."

"J. E. GRAY.

"John Phillips, Esq., F.R.S., &c. &c."

Appended to the letter, Dr. Gray has printed from the Estimates tabular statements of the salaries of the subordinate officers of the civil service, contrasted with the payments of the subordinate officers in the British Museum and the Observatories at Greenwich and the Cape, from which the advantages of the non-scientific over the scientific Government employees are apparent. It may be thought by some that Dr. Gray has taken too limited a view of the question proposed by the Council of the Association; but it is well that attention should be drawn to a tangible grievance, especially when by so doing there is illustration of the spirit with which it is alleged that this commercial country regards the occupations and labours of men of science. This imputation is, we are persuaded, far too broadly made, and there is little doubt that greater liberality would be shown if the subject could be fairly represented, for the accomplishment of which the present movement will exert useful influence.

#### LAMBETH PALACE.

THE Archaeological Society of Surrey met at Lambeth Palace on Friday, the 31st ult. After Westminster Abbey no fitter scene could be chosen for a gathering of students of history and lovers of antiquities. The formation of such societies, and the idea of joining in excursions, are comparatively of recent origin, but the views and feelings which give rise to them are ancient and universal. It was to view the remains of ancient buildings, or the abodes of famous poets, warriors, or statesmen, that Cicero went to Athens, Gibbon to Rome, and Washington Irving to the Alhambra; and no one can read the record of their feelings on such occasions without deep interest. Lambeth Palace, the scene of the visit of last week, though ancient and venerable, is far indeed from being anything like a ruin. It has many points of architectural and archaeological interest within its precincts, which were inspected by the visitors under the able direction of the Rev. Mr. Bontell and other learned guides. The chapel and its crypt, supposed to be a portion of the ancient manor-house built by Archbishop Hubert Walter about 1190, the gate-house built by Archbishop Morton about 1490, the Lollards' Tower built by Archbishop Chicheley, 1434-35, the guard-chamber, mentioned in 1424 as the camera armigerorum, the great hall, the library and banquet-room, with the more modern portions of the building, were visited by the Society, demonstrations being given in each place of the objects most worthy of attention. For inspecting the gardens and the outside of the palace the weather was most unfavourable,

but there was ample occupation for a long day's study under the venerable roofs of the old buildings. The formal proceedings of the day were commenced by an admirable address from the Bishop of Winchester who presided, after which several papers were read, among which were an account, by Mr. Black, of the manuscripts in the Palace library, and an essay, by Mr. Flower, on some passages in the life of Archbishop Laud. These were interesting and appropriate subjects, but it was not easy to give attention to details amidst scenes which conjure up a hundred historical associations. From the days of the early Norman reigns, through all the annals of England, Lambeth Palace has witnessed many scenes memorable in history. For nearly seven centuries the Primates of England have resided here. The names of Langton, Arundel, Chicheley, Morton, Cranmer, Pole, Parker, Bancroft, recall important events in the annals both of Church and State. The Lollards' Tower brings vividly before the mind the faith and sufferings of the Wycliffites and other precursors of the Reformation. Cuttings on the wall still preserve the initials, names, and reflections of the unhappy captives. Among these sad records is the *Noce tepsum* of Cranmer. State prisoners were also sometimes committed to the dungeons at Lambeth. Here the Earl of Essex was confined; the Earls of Chesterfield and Derby; and Sir Thomas Armstrong, afterwards executed for participation in the rebellion of the Duke of Monmouth. Richard Lovelace, the poet, was also a prisoner, and it may be here that were conceived the exquisite lines, beginning

"Stone walls do not a prison make,  
Nor iron bars a cage."

Here, in happier times than those of Wycliffe and the Lollards, Peter Martyr and Martin Bucer found a safe retreat and learned leisure. Elizabeth sometimes stayed at Lambeth with Archbishop Whitgift, when consulting on matters of the Church. Mary of Orange visited Archbishop Tillotson in 1694, and the same primate entertained Peter the Great of Russia, who came to witness an ordination. Upwards of a hundred and fifty bishops have been consecrated in the chapel. In 1813, the last archbishop's consecration was witnessed by Queen Charlotte, then in her seventieth year. By many successive primates the buildings have been repaired and extended, but none have showed more liberality and taste in this respect than Dr. Howley, who is said to have spent above 60,000*l.* on the palace during his primacy, and to whom the chapel is indebted for its present state of renovation. The library has undergone many vicissitudes. Evelyn, writing to Pepys in 1689, says that "it ebbs and flows, like the Thames running by it, at every prelate's accession or translation." In the middle of the seventeenth century many of the old books were dispersed. There is, however, a rich store of ancient manuscripts, the most remarkable of which were described in the paper read at the meeting on the 31st. Of the relics exhibited by Mr. Black, in illustration of his paper, one of the most noticeable was the Deed by which the Lambeth property was originally conveyed to the Primates, a venerable document in excellent preservation. Many records and State papers, with autographs of Royal or distinguished personages, were also exhibited to the five hundred antiquaries assembled in the old Guard Chamber, now the Hall of the palace. The picture gallery has also some treasures which will delight the visitor. Among the pictures are original portraits of Luther, of Cardinal Pole, of Katherine Parr, of Bishops Juxon, Hoadley, Parker, and other ecclesiastics celebrated in English annals.

#### GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

THE great comet which in 1556 caused such commotion in Europe, and which seemed to Charles V. a frightful presage, may, according to a note which Mr. Hind has caused to be distributed to continental observatories, be expected between August, 1858, and August, 1860; but the learned astron-

omer has suggested that, as the calculations of its return are necessarily rather vague, it would be well to be on the watch for it at once. His suggestion has, we hear, already begun to be acted on at Paris, and it will no doubt be followed in all observatories. It has been intimated to the public at Paris, that M. Le Verrier, director of the observatory, or any of his assistants, will be happy to afford the needful instructions to any private persons who may be disposed to occupy themselves in looking after the comet, and it is said that they may do so by means of a very simple and easily fixed apparatus. In England no doubt there will be no lack of persons who will be glad to take part in the discovery of the heavenly visitant; and to encourage their zeal they may be reminded that 1759 it was a simple peasant of Saxony, one Palitzsch, who was the first to see a comet which had been long and anxiously expected by the learned. As it is generally believed that a comet coming in collision with the earth would cause terrible disasters, and as, according to some savans, it is not impossible that the expected comet may do so, this extract from a paper on the said comet, just published by M. Babinet, one of the most distinguished members of the French Academy of Sciences, will be read with interest:—"As the idea of a collision between the comet and our earth has recently been admitted in a work by a first-rate author, I must protest positively against any idea of a perceptible mechanical shock on the part of a comet. I am able to prove that the shock of a swallow, bent on suicide, and flying right against a railway-train of one hundred waggons, drawn by ten locomotives, would be a thousand times more dangerous for the train than would be to the earth the simultaneous shock of all the comets registered in astronomical catalogues. For what, after all, is a comet? A visible nothing (*un rien visible*). At a later period I will give physical and mathematical proofs of this."

The following speaks for itself:—

"Sir.—Your account in last week's 'Gazette,' of Father Secchi's remarkable photograph (not 'of the moon,' as you state, but of 'Copernicus' alone)—leads to the inference that Father Secchi forwarded copies of the photograph gratuitously to the Royal Society."

"This is not the case—the Council of the Royal Society conceiving that copies of the photograph would be of great use to astronomers engaged in studying lunar phenomena, requested that Father Secchi would obtain copies of the photograph at the cost of the Royal Society. This has been done, and thus the expense of the photograph as well as that of their distribution will be defrayed by the Royal Society. I am, &c.,

"C. R. WALLS.

Somerset House, Nov. 3rd."

Since writing the account of Professor Piazzi Smyth's astronomical labours on the Peak of Tenerife, we have seen some private letters sent home at the time, containing details of much interest, and illustrating in a graphic manner the adventures of the bivouac. The success of the expedition is the more gratifying, as Professor Smyth had for many years entreated the Government to allow him to undertake the work, having experienced, when in South Africa, the advantages in astronomical observation from a clear and elevated position. In the official report of the expedition it did not transpire that the wife of the Scottish Astronomer Royal was one of the party, remaining with scientific heroism in camp on the summit of the mountain till the close of the expedition. An extract from one of her letters will, we are sure, be read with much interest, giving a more lively description of the scenery and of the way of life on the mountain, than could be gathered from the formal report presented to the Admiralty:—

"Guañara, Tenerife, 27th July, 1856.

"After a prosperous and happy journey we are now comfortably settled for a time, on the highest point of the walls of the old crater, 7800 feet above the sea. Piazzi still intends endeavouring to get higher up the Peak, but, in the meantime, he has fixed on this for an observing station. He has got the small telescope erected, and all his other instruments, though the large telescope is left for the present at Orotava, the possibility of getting it up the mountain being still doubtful. The people in England do not know, and therefore can never fully appreciate, the difficulties with which Piazzi has had to contend, or the amount of skill and labour he has bestowed to overcome them. He works hard both by day and night, but in working he is in his own element; he is quite well, and never appears greatly fatigued, always happy and contented. We have no shelter but our tent, nevertheless we



are as happy within our four canvas walls (seven feet by ten), as if we had a palace over our heads. I wish you could see us taking our meals off the top of a box, eighteen inches square, which is all we have for a table; our bed acts as sofa by day. We have a regular encampment here, Piazzi having built it all nicely walled in; the area is 36 feet by 27—the wall, seven feet high and two feet thick, is to defend us partly from the wind, and to afford a little shelter from the sun. This area contains a tent for ourselves, one for the attendants, one for the telescope, another for the meteorological instruments, and a fifth for sundry other of Piazzi's works.

"The day after landing at Santa Cruz we crossed the island, the first part of the journey in a car drawn by four horses, the rest was done on horseback. We passed through Saguna, once the university town of the island, but now there is neither university nor cathedral. All convents and nunneries have been suppressed, and neither priests nor monks are to be seen in any part of the island—there are only five priests for Orotava, a city of 4000 inhabitants!

"We left Orotava on the 14th July, at half-past six in the morning. Our cavalcade consisted of twenty-five horses and mules, each animal had a man to lend it. The ascent of the mountain is rapid, so that we quickly passed through the various zones of vegetation, until we reached the rugged and barren district where only the *Ratamni* grows, a capital plant for making fires. On emerging above the clouds, the scene was novel and imposing beyond all description. We now see clouds in new and beautiful forms and shades every day below us, while above us we have an intensely blue sky, and a brilliant sun all around us. We have lava rocks of all colours, black, brown, red, white, and grey.

"The ascent occupied twelve hours. We rested twice; once for an hour, the next time for three-quarters of an hour, by a pleasant spring of water, at the foot of the mountain where we are now perched. It was the only water we saw during the journey. It is on this spring we now depend for our supply, and it is hard work to bring it up the mountain. The scenery is extremely grand, the mighty peak rises up in front of our tent door, and we can look into the crater on the top. Between us and the peak is the great old crater, and it is on a pinnacle of this crater wall that we are now located. These rocky barriers are grand in every way—they stand up all round the peak, which shoots up in the centre, whilst down its sides are the furrowed courses of innumerable rivers of lava—all quiet and still now, but ever telling fearful tales of fiery devastation. From the other side of our mountain top, we look down into deep gorges, and see smiling plains beyond, extending to the sea shore, and there we discern the surf as it beats up against the rocks. Every day, in the midst of our grand solitude, we see some new object to interest and charm us. We find the days too short for all we have to do. Piazzi has made a great many beautiful sketches, and is succeeding admirably in photography; some of these he is sending to Mr. Stephenson.

"We brought two intelligent sailors up with us from the ship, who are of the greatest use and comfort to us. We have also two Spanish servants, so that we are quite a little colony. We are very comfortably supplied with food; in short, we manage to rough it out very pleasantly, and, having been here a fortnight to-morrow, I write with some experience of mountain life."

The representations made to the Government as to opening commercial intercourse with Central Africa promise to prove effectual. Last week we reported that a deputation of members of scientific societies, and of others interested in the subject, had an audience with Lord Palmerston, and met with an encouraging reception. At the monthly meeting of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, held on the 3rd inst., a communication was received from the Board of Trade, enclosing a letter from Mr. B. Campbell, H.B.M.'s Consul at Lagos, and inviting co-operation in carrying its proposals into effect. The latter, after a review of the explorations of geographers, and a statement of the prospects of remunerative commerce in the regions opened up, thus urges the immediate commencement of mercantile transactions, amidst scenes where Europeans have been hitherto known only as promoters of the nefarious traffic in slaves!—

"There are now but few and trifling obstacles to the profitable employment of capital in those parts of the rivers Niger and Tehadda which, while affording some security to property, are yet within reach of the Felatah and other interior people; and should some enterprising merchants be willing to embark in a commerce offering every prospect of success, and Her Majesty's Government be induced to support such enterprise by its countenance and influence, in sending a representative to treat with the Felatah chiefs, and to point out to them the advantages of occupying themselves with peaceful and legitimate trade, instead of their predatory excursions against the unoffending Pagan tribes, I beg leave, my lord, to tender myself for such service. Experience has proved that the Mahomedan Foulahs, in all those countries before mentioned, of which they dispossessed the original occupiers, have, after a time, settled down to the peaceful pursuits of lawful commerce; those of Benoudou have long since felt the influence and enjoyed the benefits of legitimate commerce with the settlements on the Gambia; those of Footha Toro have had the advantage and reaped the profits of an extensive commerce with the French settlement on the Senegal; and those of Footha Tallon have shown how highly they esteem a free commercial intercourse with Sierra Leone, and with the commercial establishments of the English and other merchants at

Thybrandy, on the Rio Nunez and at the Rio Pongo, and other points accessible to their enterprise; gradually in all the countries abovementioned, they have abandoned marauding parties; as the chiefs, the leaders of them, became rich, they felt no inclination to risk themselves again in slave-hunts, for such is really their warfare, and preferred the more safe and peaceful gains arising from legitimate commerce with the white man."

We trust that the carrying out of these plans will prove the beginning of a new era of commerce and civilization in Central Africa. The more recent researches of Dr. Livingstone prove that a boundless field is open for the exercise of legitimate commerce, with other results which will gladden every philanthropic mind.

Professor Christmas commenced, on Tuesday, the winter course of lectures at the Royal Society of Literature, on the Romance of Early British History. The first lecture embraced the period from the siege of Troy to the invasion of Julius Caesar, in reviewing which the Professor analyzed the statements of Nennius, Gildas, Gervase of Tilbury, the Saxon Chronicle, and Geoffrey of Monmouth; pointing out what seemed to him glimpses of genuine history in the midst of the romantic legends. The next lecture, on the 11th instant, is to be on the Historical Romances immortalized by Shakspeare.

Mr. Akerman, Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, has been engaged for some time past in the compilation of a map, showing the possessions of the Abbey of Malmesbury, and in the course of his inquiry has visited many of the places, and traced the boundaries of the grants of the Anglo-Saxon princes previous to the Norman Conquest. His work, however, is far from complete, owing to the difficulty of obtaining access to district maps, giving more details than are to be found in the Ordnance Survey. The co-operation of persons locally acquainted with the particular districts is required, and we feel that it is only necessary to mention the work in which Mr. Akerman is engaged, to obtain for him much information from our local antiquaries.

There is at present exhibiting a model of the Tabernacle of Israel in the Wilderness, remarkable as a work of art, and interesting as a correct representation of this ancient sanctuary, the precursor of the more durable and splendid Temple of Jerusalem. The scale of the model is one inch to a cubit, a cubit being eighteen inches. Each part is formed exactly after the detailed description given in the Mosaic records. Gold, silver, and copper are found in the appointed places; the veil of the inner sanctuary is richly embroidered, as well as the curtain of the Tabernacle. The altar, the golden candlestick, the silver trumpets, and the vessels used in sacrifice, are neatly moulded, and the whole gives a striking and defined idea of the original structure. The model, we understand, is the work of the Rev. R. W. Hartshorn, curate of St. Andrew's, Lambeth, and the proceeds of its exhibition are to be devoted to the establishment of infant schools in that district. The labour and the object are alike commendable, and it is only to be regretted that the model should not be exhibited in a more accessible place than Princes-street, Stamford-street, Lambeth. The model, after its immediate purpose is served, or in furtherance of the object of its designer, ought to be secured for the Scriptural Museum now being formed in St. Martin's Hall, the opening of which is shortly to be inaugurated by an address by Colonel Sir Henry Rawlinson.

We find in the 'Honolulu Commercial Advertiser' some interesting particulars of the present eruption of the great volcano of Mauna Roa, in Hawaii. This commenced, it appears, on the 11th of August last year, and was still in full activity on the 23rd of June. The breadth of the stream of lava now flowing varies from three hundred yards to two miles and upwards; it has already advanced eleven miles, and its average depth is from twenty to thirty feet. It is remarked that no lava has as yet proceeded from an old crater several thousand feet lower down, which leads to the conclusion that the interior of the mountain is honeycombed, consisting of several cavities partitioned off from one another. The etiological theory

that finds most favour in Honolulu is, that the eruption is caused by the sea finding its way into the mountain, which occasions the generation of steam, and the consequent expulsion of the lava.

The death of M. Goujon, of the Observatory of Paris, is announced. Although only thirty-three years of age, he was not undistinguished in astronomical science. Amongst other things, he discovered a comet, demonstrated the periodical appearance of Brorsen's comet, assisted in determining the difference of longitude between Paris and Greenwich, &c. He was for some years secretary and assistant to Arago.

The Academy of Brussels was lately called on to distribute a prize for a treatise demonstrating (as nearly as from the absence of authentic materials can be done) the precise birthplace of Charlemagne; but none of the treatises sent in, though the number was great, was considered worthy of the prize. In an elaborate report on the subject, M. Poland, one of the members of the Academy, declared that, for his part, after a patient investigation of history, he had come to the conclusion, that the great sovereign was born neither in Carlsburg, nor Vargei, nor Ingelheim, nor Aix-la-Chapelle, nor in any other place in Germany, nor in the province of Liège, in Belgium, but somewhere in the Ile de France, in France—that is, in the very cradle of what now constitutes the French kingdom. This is a conclusion which will certainly be received with extraordinary pleasure in France; but we may expect to see it vehemently combated by Belgians and Germans.

One of the most remarkable institutions for Italian and Roman history is the Archivio Generale at Venice, and the Scuola di Paleographia united with it. Within the vast localities of the now suppressed Convent of the Fratri Minori di S. Francesco is collected the immense mass of documents of the former Venetian Republic, and of its secularised monasteries and brotherhoods. We have here a treasure hitherto hidden; for the majority of the documents were either unused or inaccessible. It is only a very short period since they have been arranged and restored in a manner that might serve as a pattern for the officials of the immense building now constructing on the Rolls property. The Imperial Government gives every aid in this laudable endeavour to the local authorities, and has expressed a wish, equivalent to a command, that every facility be given to historical students wishing to consult it. With it about two years back a school was founded for the study of Paleography, or the deciphering ancient handwritings, the importance of which none but the deep historical student at the fountains of history can appreciate.

The Vienna papers announce that a Danish *savant* has translated the Runic inscription on the celebrated Pireus lion in Venice. According to the expounder, it announces that Harold Sigardson, half-brother of Olaf the Saint, one of the Viking pirates, in the year 1040, being called to the help of the Greek Emperor, with the aid of his Norman suite, conquered the Pireus, and levied tribute from the people.

Monsieur Pauter, of Geneva, has just published a book, entitled 'Remarques sur le Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française, in which he has exposed the numerous mistakes which are to be found in that celebrated authority. M. Pauter's work, which must have cost him immense labour and research, will become an absolutely necessary supplement to the French dictionary.

From Rome we learn that a most interesting discovery has just been made in a garden near the Piazza del Popolo. The owner of it in digging a well, struck against a solid mass of stone, which on investigation turned out to be a colossal bust of Minerva, with the inscription "Populus Romanus Augusto Imperatori" carved on it: the length of the nose alone is sixteen inches; it has been purchased by the Pope for the Vatican Museum.

Brachvogel has just written a novel, taking the son of the great composer, Sebastian Bach, for its

hero, whose many adventures and tragic end he describes.

A complete edition of the works of Frederick the Great will shortly be published in Berlin, in thirty-two volumes.

# FINE ARTS.

## ILLUSTRATED GIFT BOOKS.

It must be owned there are always strong suspicions, at first sight, about the sterling worth of literature that comes to us under the holiday garb of hot-pressed paper, gilt leaves, and blue-and-gold bindings. Objects so elegant are apt to be treated as drawing-room furniture, the reading part as a mere vehicle for exquisite typography and elaborate tooling. Such dainty volumes are handled with the same delicacy as the china and the millinery of great occasions, and not with the homely, well-worn familiarity of daily use. This is all very natural; and woe be to the author who needs the aid of these tempting introductions to launch him into the sea of public favour!

*Nil pletis timidus navita puppibus  
Fidit.*

Gilded masts and silken sails will avail him little on such an ocean. When, on the contrary, true art is wedded to good verse, the union is irresistible. Rogers, Byron, Moore, not to speak of older names, have been worthily honoured by this homage, inasmuch as they are above all suspicion of being illustrated for mere illustration's sake. And, to do all parties justice, publishers and public, it must be acknowledged that the mistake of piling unsuitable ornament upon works of prose or poetry is rarely committed. The experiment is perhaps a too dangerous one. We even venture to think that Mr. Owen Jones's splendidly ornate volumes of the 'Song of Solomon' and the 'Matrimonial Service' were a mistake in the application of ornament. Those illuminations, though carried to a degree of perfection before unknown, were out of harmony with the general sentiments attending each of those subjects. But perhaps the greatest anomaly ever perpetrated in this branch of publication was the issue of a volume, by Richard Thomson, Esq., on the history of Magna Charta, with transcripts of that and the other charters, in Latin and English, with head and tail pieces, initial letters and vignettes, beautifully engraved on wood, and every page of the work either surrounded or headed by a border of original design, taken from scenes of mediæval life. A combination of two such uncongenial subjects as public records and fine arts was perhaps never before attempted. Heraldry seems to be the only link in common to the two subjects.

How far the Illustrated Gift Books of 1857 answer the requirements of science, in having their ornament kept appropriate—secondary in importance to the uses and nature of the thing ornamented; rightly placed; sparing yet rich; little and good rather than abundant and thoughtless—our fair readers will doubtless have frequent opportunities of deciding for themselves. In the volumes we are about to mention there seems to be very little ground of complaint.

*Rouman Anthology; or, Selections of Rouman Poetry, Ancient and Modern.* By the Hon. Henry Stanley.—This volume takes the first place, not only from the rarity of its subject-matter, but from the splendour of the decorations. The letterpress is a collection

of the national ballads of Moldavia and Wallachia, printed in the original language, but in the ordinary English character, with the help of some additional signs and a sub-dashed *s* and *t*. Translations of a few of these songs in French and English are appended, and notes; and the volume is prefaced by a description from the pen of Mr. Stanley, partly historical and partly furnished from personal observations made in the Principalities. Speaking of the countries themselves, Mr. Stanley makes some valuable remarks:—

"Bukarest," he says, "has no works of art, but it possesses public gardens, perhaps equal to those of any capital in Europe, and is full of quaint old characters, having curious Byzantine paintings, but possessing no architectural interest except for the ecclesiologist. It is the rural districts, however, and not the towns of Wallachia, that are so pleasing; in summer the climate is genial, and the soil of unequalled fertility. The Carpathian mountains that border the plains contain sites equal in beauty to any in the lower parts of the Alps; many of them are occupied by monasteries, some of them of considerable antiquity and historical interest. . . . The peculiar charm of the country consists, however in the character of the inhabitants. Surrounded as they are by different tribes of Slavonians, the traveller from the west is surprised and pleased to hear a language which has deviated little from the parent Latin; he will at the same time be pleased to meet, in the upper classes, with the manners and habits of Western Europe; and among the peasants with a simplicity, liveliness, and friendly disposition which contrast well with the boorishness of the Slav race in Servia and in Austria. There is also the freedom from restraint and the hospitality of Oriental life."

From the wandering minstrels, or *lautari*, of these countries, a collection of ballads has been made and printed by M. Aleksandri. Some of the Rouman airs have also been given by Mr. Grenville Murray in his volume of the 'Songs and Legends of Roumania.' The language of these people appears to have come down in almost unbroken descent from the legions of Trajan and Aurelian, who are settled in these districts. It contains, no doubt, many Slav words—a circumstance which has been made use of by foreigners, Russians especially, and which has sometimes led the native grammarians themselves to suppose that the whole originally came from a Slav source. The political uses of language have never been lost sight of by Russian encroachment or Austrian sway. The relation of the Rouman to the Latin tongue is conjectured to prove useful in illustrating the philology of the latter. The more striking changes are the following:—

"The sound of *c*, *k*, and *q* of the Latin changes to *p*, as *apa* for *aqua*, *peptu* for *pectus*, *patur* for *quatuor*; *cl* changes to *ch* or *k*, as *includere*. Perhaps the converse takes place, and *qu* of the Latin changes to *cl* or *kl*, as *clătina* for *quatio*; *cx* changes to *sc* or *sk*, as *scote* and *scutura* for *excutio*; *l* changes to *r*, as *soare* for *sol*, *miere* for *mel*."

The Latinity of Rouman has been much disguised by the use of the Cyrillic alphabet. The change was adopted in 1400 A.D., after an attempt by one of the Popes to unite the Roumans to the Roman Church. The Russians have since resisted every attempt to throw off the Slavonian alphabet.

The modern poems are compositions by M.M. Aleksandri, Cretzianu, Bolentineanu, and others; and translations have been given, both from the native compositions and their imitations. The former—the native songs—are of the simplest construction. Miora, for

instance, is a ballad, describing three shepherds, with their flocks, descending into the valley, one a Moldavian, the second a Hungarian, the third a Vranecian. The two latter conspire to kill the former. But a lamb of his flock, Miora, reveals the plot to her master. The Moldavian replies in the following remarkable strain:—

"Little lamb,  
Thou art mad;  
And if I should die  
In the field of young grass,  
Say to the Vranecian  
And to the Hungarian,  
That they bury me  
Here, hard by.  
In the sheep fold,  
That I may be altogether with you;  
That from beneath the stone  
The dogs may hear me!  
Tell them this;  
And place at my head  
The flute of beech wood,  
That sounds with love!  
The flute of bone,  
That sounds very softly!  
The flute of elder wood,  
Whose sound is full of fire!  
That the wind which beats on me  
May blow through them,  
And collect together the sheep,  
That they may weep for me  
With tears of blood!  
But those of the murderer  
Do not speak to them;  
But tell them simply  
That I have married  
A superb queen,  
The bride of the world!  
That at my wedding  
A star fell!  
The sun and the moon  
Held my crown;  
The fir trees and aspens  
I had them for wedding guests;  
For priests the high mountains;  
The birds for minstrels—  
A thousand birds—  
And the stars for torches!"

The subject of the ballad 'Erculean,' appears to be the praises of a "superb captain"—Ercul Erculean. It opens thus:—

"At dawn they departed,  
Three sisters to the flowers.  
The eldest sister  
To Cerna, in the valley;  
The middle sister  
To the bank, in the garden;  
The smallest sister of all,  
And the most sprightly,  
Has gone, has departed  
To Cerna, in the mountains."

Thither Erculean goes, and calls upon the smallest sister to come forth. She bids him stamp on the rock:—

"And from it at once  
Comes out a beautiful maiden  
With bared bosom  
White and fair,  
Sweet and cool,  
With golden hair  
Upon her shoulders.  
Ercul Erculean,  
The superb captain,  
Takes her in his arms,  
And with renewed life  
Presses her to his heart,  
And gently cradles her  
In a bed in the cool shade,  
In a bed without sun,  
A nest of little flowers,  
Of sweet violets."

'The Ring and the Handkerchief,' and 'The Malediction,' are similar instances of the performances of the minstrels. The modern poems are less curious, but deserve attention. 'The Liberal Fox' is a fable of very easy application. The fox is constantly complaining of the sway of the elephant, and that it was unjust that all the revenues should be spent at the king's table. The result is, that the hare is sent to the fox, with an appointment from the court, namely, the extensive department of 'the hens.' Next day the fox appears in the assembly with his head tied up in a bandage. Being questioned, he says that he is sick—"he has choked himself with a bone." 'Master Manole' embodies a legend



of masonry, to the effect that, when the wall of the new building would not stand, but fell as often as they attempted to raise it, the master mason, Manole, calls them together, and tells them that the building requires a woman to be its foundation. They agree, therefore, that the first woman who comes with her husband's provisions should be sacrificed. All swear not to betray the secret to their wives; and all, except Manole, break the oath; Manole's wife appears first, and is built up alive into the strong wall. This grim story is followed by a plaintive 'Complaint of the Exile,' and 'Adieu to Moldavia,' of simple and tender character.

The ornament, however, is not the least remarkable feature of this volume. Mr. Austin, of Hertford, the publisher, professes to devote the most minute care and attention to the production of works which shall be as nearly perfect as possible in the particulars of printing and binding. The handsome publication of 'Sakuntalâ,' in Sanskrit, some time since, attested his success in these points; and he has published also Hindustani, Hindi, and Persian works. Mr. Austin obtained a medal at the Paris Universal Exhibition, and the official report states that his books were the only ones that in any way vied with the productions of the Imperial printing-office of France. The present volume is equally a triumph of skill. The pages are edged with a square border, adapted from a Byzantine manuscript; the initial letters come from a similar source. In some instances a semi-circular heading has been employed. This is taken from a manuscript in the Paris library. Head and tail pieces of blue and gold appear here and there, and wood vignettes of exquisite work taken from good authorities; those of Venice, for instance, from Canaletti. Every page of the book, with a few rare exceptions, contains some specimen of decoration. A more highly-finished volume has seldom, if ever, issued from the press, and we hope that its qualities may recommend it as much to the boyars of Wallachia and Moldavia as to the lovers of taste in England.

*The Poets of the Nineteenth Century.* Selected and edited by the Rev. Robert Aris Willmott. Upon such a subject as this it will scarcely be thought that any amount of decoration can be superfluous. Mr. Willmott has been most catholic in his tastes; he has gathered with a most liberal hand, and made his selections with unusual judgment. Beginning with Beattie, Cowper, Hayley, he ends with Mary Howitt, Alexander Smith, Bailey, Sheridan Knowles, Gerald Massey, Allingham, Charles Mackay, and Frances Brown. No less than twenty-two names have been assembled: a list the length of which will astonish those who are in the habit of depreciating the modern Muse, and who do not find good poetry simply because they will not take the trouble to look for it. One hundred illustrations have been found for this array of poets. The art of Mr. Millais has been called in to interpret the 'Dream' of Byron, which he most satisfactorily accomplishes. The "two beings in the hues of youth," are of course the noble poet himself and his early love. The well-known features are therefore given to the youthful figure, dressed in a long cloak and shoes, who is taking leave of the lady, riding-whip and cap in hand. The saddled horse and dog are seen outside. How like Millais! every one will exclaim; and the mode of treatment of such a subject by such a man is indeed a

curiosity. Coleridge's 'Geneviève' has been illustrated by the same hand—the moment chosen being the tender one:—

"She half inclosed me with her arm,  
She pressed me with a meek embrace;  
And, bending back her head, looked up  
And gazed upon my face."

Neither face, however, is visible, and nothing but the expression of form remains. The design is somewhat disappointing. Mr. John Gilbert has followed in 'The Task' of Cowper, in the Lines to My Mother's Picture, but is more at home in the trumpet-blast of Hohenlinden, and the Coronation of Inez de Castro. Mr. Tenniel, with his clear cut groups of two, or, at the most, three figures each, throws the light of day upon Dr. Percy's Friar of Orders Gray, The Death of Marmion, Rienzi and his Daughter, and some others. James Godwin's groups of indoor refined life are distinguished, and gems of landscape are contributed by Birket Foster, Mr. Harvey, and other artists. It is impossible to enumerate all, and ungracious to particularize, and we will content ourselves by commending all minute preferences in such an assemblage of excellences to the reader. Of the poetry it is superfluous to speak, but we rejoice to find Mr. Barrett Browning's noble lines to the Wine of Cyprus along with the others we have already mentioned.

*The Sabbath, Sabbath Walks, and other Poems.* By James Grahame. Illustrated by Birket Foster. Following up the idea of giving standard works of poetry in place of the trifling novelties that used to serve as the literary basis of the Annuals, the publishers of the beautiful volumes of George Herbert and Cowper have this year presented the 'Sabbath' of Grahame, a poem less widely known, but in its author's native country equally popular. The only danger in this case was, that the sober, chastened style of the pious old Scotch pastor should receive a too florid adornment at the hands of his illustrator. Mr. Grahame, it is true, was not a minister but a writer to the Signet when he composed The Sabbath; and he afterwards took orders in the English church. Probably, however, it was not his fault that he was not a presbyterian minister, and to that school of theological feeling his writings are most closely allied. The landscapes are all scenes of tranquil pastoral beauty, such as Grahame excelled in describing. In these designs Mr. B. Foster has equalled those productions of his pencil which distinguished the exquisite works of former years, and they have been engraved with the same amount of delicacy and finish. The binding, also, of the volume (cloth) is a wonderful specimen of the art. Two shades of blue have been intermingled in the most skilful manner with gold, in a stamped design of remarkable elegance.

*The Rime of the Ancient Mariner.* By Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Illustrated. We have mentioned this last, inasmuch as its merits are neither so new nor so remarkable as those of the former. Perhaps no poem in existence could be chosen so difficult to illustrate as this, unless it be the corresponding 'Christabel.' To put oneself into the same vein of fancy as that of the writer would be next to impossible—hence all illustration that we have seen falls far short of the effect of the original. The illustrations are by Messrs. E. H. Wehnert, Birket Foster, and E. Duncan, the type in the revived mediæval style, and the binding is handsome and appropriate.

At a General Assembly of the Royal Academicians, held on Monday, John Henry Robinson and George Thomas Doo, Esq., were elected Associate Engravers.

With sincere regret we announce the death of M. Paul Delaroche, one of the most distinguished masters of the modern French school; it took place on Tuesday, after a short but painful illness. He was born in 1797, and he has been before the public as an artist since 1822. His principal works are known all over Europe. Amongst them are, Joan of Arc interrogated in her Gaol; Lippi falling in love with the Nun who served him as his Model for the Holy Virgin; The Taking of the Trocadero; The Death of Queen Elizabeth; The Death of President Duranti; Jane Gray; Richelieu and Cinq Mars; Cardinal Mazarin; The Children of Edward; Cromwell before the open Coffin of Charles I.; The Assassination of the Duke de Guise; Lord Strafford going to the Scaffold; Charles I. insulted by the Soldiers; Marie Antoinette before the Revolutionary Tribunal; A Descent from the Cross; The Last Banquet of the Girondists; and though last named, not least, the famous Hemicycle in the Palais des Beaux Arts at Paris. This last work was, it will be remembered, some months ago greatly damaged by a fire, and the restoration of it (fortunately completely accomplished) was one of the last works of the eminent deceased. By means of engravings, Delaroche's works are perhaps more widely known in Europe than those of any modern French artist; in England we conceive that they certainly are, especially those on English subjects. Several of his original paintings are in this country; some, for example, are in the galleries of the Duke of Sutherland and the Earl of Ellesmere. It is impossible to exaggerate the loss occasioned to art by the death of this great master. Whilst his style was acknowledged to be of the highest class, it possessed fewer mannerisms than that of any other leading French painter. The amount of thought condensed upon his canvases was always kept within the strictest limits of propriety; and thus the highest efforts of skill and knowledge generally resulted in a simplicity and unity to which it is the most successful and popular result of art to attain.

The late French sculptor, David, has bequeathed to the Museum of Angers a number of his works of which he had not succeeded in disposing. Amongst them are the models of his statue of General Gohert, his Child with a Bunch of Grapes, and his Young Girl at the Tomb of Botzaris.

M. Werner, a painter of natural history, much esteemed in Paris, and for twenty years attached to the Museum of the Jardin des Plantes, has just died.

#### MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

THE attempt to revive *The Dramatist* at the Haymarket must be regarded as a failure in comparison with the revival of *Wild Oats*. The fault is not in the actors, but in the play. Cherry was not so conventional as Reynolds; he was, besides, more genial and easy in his humour, and had this additional advantage, that he wrote but the one comedy, and put the best of his power and skill into it. The plot of *Wild Oats*, improbable as it is, has at least plenty of incident; and the characters are strikingly opposed and fully developed. On the other hand, *The Dramatist* has hardly any plot at all, and the characters, with two or three exceptions, are mere shadows. No doubt it is a miracle of structure, considering the materials of which it is composed; but structure without interest in the situations is the scaffolding without the house. The comedy has been reproduced for the purpose of enabling Mr. Murdoch to appear in the character of *Vapid*, and it is to be regretted for his own sake that he did not make a better selection. The feebleness and absurdity of the piece will, probably, have the effect of bringing these revivals to a sudden close. The public will now see of what kind of stuff popular comedies were made "when George III. was king," and they will not

be very eager to witness the disinterment of any more of them.

When *The Dramatist* was written, the stage was a centre of attraction to the world of fashion and pleasure. There were great actors, both of tragedy and comedy, and the theatres were crowded nightly by all classes of society. Everybody was familiar with the playhouse and the players, and everything relating to them had a certain fascination for old and young. Reynolds, a master of the craft, initiated in all the mysteries of the ropes and pulleys, and, moreover, a veteran author, who had a right to turn his experiences to account, projected *The Dramatist* for the purpose of letting his audience, as it were, behind the scenes, and showing them the actual mechanism of the entertainment in which they took so hearty a delight. The design, ephemeral, of necessity, was admirably calculated for immediate popularity. The dramatic author in those pleasant days was a real character of flesh and blood. Society was aware of his existence, and by no means inclined to look upon him, when he was bodily represented on the stage, as a phantom of the brain, or a preposterous caricature. It was generally understood also that in the character of *Vapid*—whose most felicitous attribute, by the way, is his name—Reynolds had sketched himself; and when it is added that the gay and airy Lewis, who, for some peculiar merit of style or manner, was called Gentleman Lewis, impersonated the part, there can be no difficulty in comprehending how it was that *The Dramatist* had originally a brilliant success. But to renew the success, you must renew the circumstances under which it was achieved; you must revive the fashionable taste for the theatre; you must collect a company of distinguished comedians who, from the highest to the lowest, shall be content to play any parts, however trivial, that come within their specialities; you must abolish the west-end clubs and late dinner hours; and you must prevail upon the public at large to forget whatever little critical knowledge they may have acquired since the halcyon days of the Regency. When London shall have been thus thrown back fifty years, a manager may produce a comedy like *The Dramatist* with some hope of profit; but in the existing condition of society the experiment is a delusion. Apart from every other consideration, the chief rôle has already become an abstract idea. There is no such person now known either in public or private as a dramatist. The vocation is extinct, and no efforts of the actors can induce an audience to believe in its resuscitation.

The figures by whom *Vapid* is surrounded, and the situations into which he is thrown, make the unreality still more apparent. They are so palpably artificial that the merest tyro can detect the trick by which they are set in motion. There is not a rough in the gallery who does not perceive that *Lord Scratch* is no more a lord than he is himself, and that his title has been conferred upon him solely that the "funny fellow" in the play may poke him in the ribs, and call him "Old Scratch." The unlettered part of the audience may not be able to trace the genealogy of the macaroni who has come home from foreign travel with his head full of Italy, to the fops of an earlier period of the Drama, where his prototype may be found in high perfection; but they will certainly discover that he is not drawn from actual observation, and that he is a pure product of the stage. The fine gentleman who does nothing but yawn, and who, if yawning be his badge, is very inappropriately called *Znnui*, cannot deceive anybody into a notion that he represents a class either now, or at any former time, extant in English society. In short, the whole play is a fancy piece, with one strong colour in the centre, and a number of extremely faintly-coloured outlines revolving round it. The characters do whatever is necessary to produce the point desired by the writer; and it is not the least amusing feature for contemplation in this comedy, as in most others of its kind, that they never do what you would naturally expect them to do, and that the motive of action all throughout is not only utterly inadequate to the

result produced, but is frequently created on purpose to produce it; or, in other words, that cause and effect are constantly inverted, the effect being visibly father to the cause.

Flimsy plays, constructed with tact, depend entirely on the actors, and unless the cast happens to be unusually strong in popular favourites, the shallowness of the dialogue and portraiture soon becomes evident. That *The Dramatist* was not dismissed from the stage on the night of its revival may be fairly attributed to the extraordinary exertions of Mr. Murdoch. The inanity of the first act exerted so dreary an influence over the audience that the fate of the comedy was seriously endangered. Mr. Buckstone, for the first time, failed to awaken mirth, and succeeded only in making the audience yawn; nor was it till the bustle began, when *Vapid* becomes engaged in an impossible *imbroglio*, that the house betrayed any symptom of interest in the performance. Mr. Murdoch's robust liveliness is irresistible. He will take no denial from the public. He will be heard; he will insist on asserting the supremacy of his constitutional vigour over all hindrances; and if there were nothing in his part but an excuse for laughter, he would carry it by sheer force of animal spirits. To him alone *The Dramatist* owes its temporary success, for although everybody about him did their best, what they had to do was so dull and foolish that they could not lift it into importance. Mr. William Faren, indeed, deserves special notice for his excellent presentation of the gentleman just returned from the grand tour, an embroidered fop, who redeems his manhood by rescuing a lady from the established villain of the play, and fighting a duel in a state of intoxication. The conception was carefully rendered, perhaps a little exaggerated here and there, but, upon the whole, displaying the talents of the actor to greater advantage than any character we remember to have seen him play. Mr. Chasely, too, was full of whimsicality in the little part of the servant; and Mr. Chippendale, who apparently did not know what to do with *Lord Scratch*, went through his business like a martyr. The weakest portion of the cast was that where the author himself is weakest; nor can we imagine how it would be possible to inspire the female characters with interest. *Vapid* absorbs nearly everything that is amusing in the play, and this description of absorbent could not be more effectively represented than by Mr. Murdoch.

Mr. Dillon has added to his small and cautiously dealt out rôle of impersonations at the Lyceum, *Captain Hargraves*, in *The Cavalier of Whitehead*, a part less adapted than *Belphegor* to display his special histrionic abilities. A new drama, *The Cagot*, is announced. The subject is new on the English stage, and a story of this oppressed race of the Pyrenees ought to afford matter for dramatic incidents. We heard some time ago of *Othello* being produced at the Lyceum, and we have little doubt that Mr. Dillon would in such a part establish for himself a reputation as a Shakspearian actor. His *Claude Melnotte*, in the *Lady of Lyons*, though given with spirit and art, lacks the youthful ease and enthusiasm associated with the idea of the character.

A new comic drama, "taken from the French," as usual, but shifted to British ground, has been produced at the Adelphi under the title of *The Border Marriage*. Some English cavaliers, of the ordinary jovial stamp of stage tradition, get up a marriage between their chief (Mr. Leigh Murray) and a young and wealthy widow (Miss Wyndham). Begun as a joke, it is found that the contract is binding across the border. A variety of improbable scenes occur, in one of which the widow fights and disarms her suitor, but afterwards gladly embraces the opportunity of marriage. Mr. Wright, as a comic attendant, excites merriment, but the chief wit lay in his reception of kicks and other practical compliments from the carousing cavaliers. It is to be regretted that so gentlemanly and accomplished an actor as Mr. Leigh Murray should not have had the opportunity of making his re-appearance in a more important character.

Emil Devrient has been playing in Penth, in Dr. Laube's play of *Count Essex*, to crowded and enthusiastic audiences; the Hungarians were so enraptured with the great German actor, that they called him out before the curtain twenty-six times.

M. Jullien again wields his baton at the head of a large and well-trained orchestra, his usual winter series of concerts having commenced on Wednesday, in Her Majesty's Theatre, which has been fitted up with much taste for the occasion. The list of the orchestra contains most of the well-known names, and some instrumentalists who will prove useful auxiliaries. The performance of Beethoven's Symphony in A, on the opening night, attested the excellent training of the band. Some new *morceaux de danse* were on the programme; but the chief attraction was the appearance of Catherine Hayes, on her return from a tour round the world, which throws into the shade even the wanderings of Ida Pfeiffer. Asia, Africa, America, Australia, the East and West Indies, Canada and the States, the Brazils and Russia—everywhere, in short, "from China to Peru," she seems to have been, and, in the magiloquent words of M. Jullien, "the burning tropics and the cold north have confirmed her triumphs." The plaintive scena from *Le Prophète*, 'Ah! mon fils, the more lively aria of Bellini, 'Come per me sereno,' the Irish ballad, 'The harp of Tara,' and the Scotch 'Coming through the rye,' presented ample variety of style. There is certainly more skill displayed than formerly in her singing, but the voice appears somewhat worn, and requires evident exertion to sustain its effects. Apparent artlessness and ease are deficient, and these are among the highest achievements of vocal art. In the popular ballads she will be more unquestionably welcome than in operatic music.

#### LEARNED SOCIETIES.

##### GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

(From an Austrian Member.)

SECTION II.—*Botany and Vegetable Physiology* (continued).—Sept. 20th.—1. M. KALBRUNNER, of Langenloes (Austria), communicated his observations concerning a disease of the vine, which he thinks originates from the constitution of the soil, and may be cured by complete extirpation of the vines, and cultivation of the vineyard with maize, lucerne, and turnips, for a certain number of years.

2. PROF. ALEX. BRAUN read a paper on the position of the petals in the flower of *Delphinium* (Larkspur). He remarked that the history of the development of flowers is not yet sufficient to clear up their morphology. The calyx of *Delphinium* has a covering indicative of a  $\frac{2}{3}$  position. The cowl-like portion of the corolla is variable in composition and in the number of its sections. In some species the petals form no fulcrum. The number of petals (as long before stated by Batsch) is four, which are united into a monopetalous corolla. The original four petals stand in a hemicycle on the front of the calyx, the interstices between them being equal in size to the space occupied by the four petals. The species with resolved flowers have eight petals, as in *Aconitum*; in this case two petals form the nectaria, and the others are reduced to small apices surrounding the stamens. All these eight petals are evolved in the flower of *Nigella*, so that a flower of this genus, supposing the alternate petals to be obliterated, represents the flower of a *Delphinium*. In monstrous specimens of *Delphinium consolida* the number of spurred calcar-leaves corresponds exactly with that of spurred petals, a circumstance indicative of a corolla with five petals, only one of which is fully developed. *Garidella* is to *Nigella* as *Delphinium consolida* is to its other congeners: the petals stand opposite to the calcar-leaves. The *Delphinia* are variable in the number of their stamens. In *D. consolida* the stamens stand in five rows; in *D. cardiopetalum* in eight rows; in other species in a



greater number, as may be inferred from the scars which are left when the stamens are taken away; their position, especially in the group of *D. datum* and *D. grandiflorum*, may be expressed by the fraction  $\frac{1}{16}$ ; the position of the stamens in *D. cardiopetalum* (generally eighteen in number) is  $\frac{3}{8}$ . The succession in which the stamens cast their pollen answers exactly to the position of the leaves, anomalies, however, occurring frequently in the genus in question. The petals have a slight lateral deviation from their position opposite the calcar-leaves. The germinal leaves are disposed in the same way as the stamens. The position of the petals in *Delphinium*, whatever may be its variations, would not authorize the establishment of distinct genera, these variations being in intimate mutual connexion.

3. DR. ROSSMANN proposed to organize a regular exchange of microscopical preparations, as done by the Giessem Microscopical Society, which has published a catalogue of its duplicates disposable in exchange. An uniform size of the object-bearers (37 millimetres long and 23 broad) would be very desirable.

4. PROF. DR. LEONHARDI, of Prague, communicated a letter of Prof. Schleiden, of Jena, concerning the distressed situation of the celebrated naturalist, Charles Shimper, of Mannheim, together with a letter of Baron Alex. Humboldt to Director Haidinger, in which the precarious position of Dr. Shimper is likewise mentioned with warm interest. Prof. Leonhardi moved, that the Section should manifest their acknowledgment of Dr. Shimper's scientific merits, and their wish to see his situation made less precarious, and more adequate to the rank he holds in the intellectual world. Prof. Teutzel commended the motion, and the Section unanimously voted the following declaration:—

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PROF. HOFFMANN was of opinion that the chemical influence of the soil is but a subordinate one, compared to its physical conditions; every kind of soil containing the same substances, as chemists have ascertained. As long as chemistry is not able to clear up the mode in which the substances composing a soil are combined with each other, its assistance is not very valuable in solving questions relating to botanical geography; e.g., chemistry cannot decide whether lime is combined with silica or with carbonic acid—a question very important for vegetable economy. He thought it most essential to investigate carefully every physical circumstance, especially the capacity for heat of any soil.

PROF. SCHMITZLEIN stated that he had abandoned the merely chemical point of view, previously adhered to by him, and that he was now occupied in investigating the roots of plants, sup-

be very eager to witness the disinterment of any more of them.

When *The Dramatist* was written, the stage was a centre of attraction to the world of fashion and pleasure. There were great actors, both of tragedy and comedy, and the theatres were crowded nightly by all classes of society. Everybody was familiar with the playhouse and the players, and everything relating to them had a certain fascination for old and young. Reynolds, a master of the craft, initiated in all the mysteries of the ropes and pulleys, and, moreover, a veteran author, who had a right to turn his experiences to account, projected *The Dramatist* for the purpose of letting his audience, as it were, behind the scenes, and showing them the actual mechanism of the entertainment in which they took so hearty a delight. The design, ephemeral, of necessity, was admirably calculated for immediate popularity. The dramatic author in those pleasant days was a real character of flesh and blood. Society was aware of his existence, and by no means inclined to look upon him, when he was bodily represented on the stage, as a phantom of the brain, or a preposterous caricature. It was generally understood also that in the character of *Vapid*—whose most felicitous attribute, by the way, is his name—Reynolds had sketched himself; and when it is added that the gay and airy Lewis, who, for some peculiar merit of style or manner, was called Gentleman Lewis, impersonated the part, there can be no difficulty in comprehending how it was that *The Dramatist* had originally a brilliant success. But to renew the success, you must renew the circumstances under which it was achieved; you must revive the fashionable taste for the theatre; you must collect a company of distinguished comedians who, from the highest to the lowest, shall be content to play any parts, however trivial, that come within their specialties; you must abolish the west-end clubs and late dinner hours; and you must prevail upon the public at large to forget whatever little critical knowledge they may have acquired since the halcyon days of the Regency. When London shall have been thus thrown back fifty years, a manager may produce a comedy like *The Dramatist* with some hope of profit; but in the existing condition of society the experiment is a delusion. Apart from every other consideration, the chief rôle has already become an abstract idea. There is no such person now known either in public or private as a dramatist. The vocation is extinct, and no efforts of the actors can induce an audience to believe in its resuscitation.

The figures by whom *Vapid* is surrounded, and the situations into which he is thrown, make the unreality still more apparent. They are so palpably artificial that the merest tyro can detect the trick by which they are set in motion. There is not a rough in the gallery who does not perceive that *Lord Scratch* is no more a lord than he is himself, and that his title has been conferred upon him solely that the "funny fellow" in the play may poke him in the ribs, and call him "Old Scratch." The unlettered part of the audience may not be able to trace the genealogy of the macaroni who has come home from foreign travel with his head full of Italy, to the tops of an earlier period of the Drama, where his prototype may be found in high perfection; but they will certainly discover that he is not drawn from actual observation, and that he is a pure product of the stage. The fine gentleman who does nothing but yawn, and who, if yawning be his badge, is very inappropriately called *Ennus*, cannot deceive anybody into a notion that he represents a class either now, or at any former time, extant in English society. In short, the whole play is a fancy piece, with one strong colour in the centre, and a number of extremely faintly-coloured outlines revolving round it. The characters do whatever is necessary to produce the point desired by the writer; and it is not the least amusing feature for contemplation in this comedy, as in most others of its kind, that they never do what you would naturally expect them to do, and that the motive of action all throughout is not only utterly inadequate to the

result produced, but is frequently created on purpose to produce it; or, in other words, that cause and effect are constantly inverted, the effect being visibly father to the cause.

Flimsy plays, constructed with tact, depend entirely on the actors, and unless the cast happens to be unusually strong in popular favourites, the shallowness of the dialogue and portraiture soon becomes evident. That *The Dramatist* was not dismissed from the stage on the night of its revival may be fairly attributed to the extraordinary exertions of Mr. Murdoch. The inanity of the first act exerted so dreary an influence over the audience that the fate of the comedy was seriously endangered. Mr. Buckstone, for the first time, failed to awaken mirth, and succeeded only in making the audience yawn; nor was it till the bustle began, when *Vapid* becomes engaged in an impossible *imbroglio*, that the house betrayed any symptom of interest in the performance. Mr. Murdoch's robust liveliness is irresistible. He will take no denial from the public. He will be heard; he will insist on asserting the supremacy of his constitutional vigour over all hindrances; and if there were nothing in his part but an excuse for laughter, he would carry it by sheer force of animal spirits. To him alone *The Dramatist* owes its temporary success, for although everybody about him did their best, what they had to do was so dull and foolish that they could not lift it into importance. Mr. William Faren, indeed, deserves special notice for his excellent presentation of the gentleman just returned from the grand tour, an embroidered fop, who redeems his manhood by rescuing a lady from the established villain of the play, and fighting a duel in a state of intoxication. The conception was carefully rendered, perhaps a little exaggerated here and there, but, upon the whole, displaying the talents of the actor to greater advantage than any character we remember to have seen him play. Mr. Clarke, too, was full of whimsicality in the little part of the servant; and Mr. Chippendale, who apparently did not know what to do with *Lord Scratch*, went through his business like a martyr. The weakest portion of the cast was that where the author himself is weakest; nor can we imagine how it would be possible to inspire the female characters with interest. *Vapid* absorbs nearly everything that is amusing in the play, and this description of absorbment could not be more effectively represented than by Mr. Murdoch.

Mr. Dillon has added to his small and cautiously dealt out rôle of impersonations at the Lyceum, *Captain Hargraves*, in *The Cavalier of Whitehead*, a part less adapted than *Belphegor* to display his special histrionic abilities. A new drama, *The Cagot*, is announced. The subject is new on the English stage, and a story of this oppressed race of the Pyrenees ought to afford matter for dramatic incidents. We heard some time ago of *Othello* being produced at the Lyceum, and we have little doubt that Mr. Dillon would in such a part establish for himself a reputation as a Shakspearian actor. His *Claude Melnotte*, in the *Lady of Lyons*, though given with spirit and art, lacks the youthful ease and enthusiasm associated with the idea of the character.

A new comic drama, "taken from the French," as usual, but shifted to British ground, has been produced at the Adelphi under the title of *The Border Marriage*. Some English cavaliers, of the ordinary jovial stamp of stage tradition, get up a marriage between their chief (Mr. Leigh Murray) and a young and wealthy widow (Miss Wyndham). Begun as a joke, it is found that the contract is binding across the border. A variety of improbable scenes occur, in one of which the widow fights and disarms her suitor, but afterwards gladly embraces the opportunity of marriage. Mr. Wright, as a comic attendant, excites merriment, but the chief wit lay in his reception of kicks and other practical compliments from the carousing cavaliers. It is to be regretted that so gentlemanly and accomplished an actor as Mr. Mr. Leigh Murray should not have had the opportunity of making his re-appearance in a more important character.

Emil Devrient has been playing in Pesth, in Dr. Laube's play of *Count Essex*, to crowded and enthusiastic audiences; the Hungarians were so enraptured with the great German actor, that they called him out before the curtain twenty-six times.

M. Julien again wields his baton at the head of a large and well-trained orchestra, his usual winter series of concerts having commenced on Wednesday, in Her Majesty's Theatre, which has been fitted up with much taste for the occasion. The list of the orchestra contains most of the well-known names, and some instrumentalists who will prove useful auxiliaries. The performance of Beethoven's Symphony in A, on the opening night, attested the excellent training of the band. Some new *morceaux de danse* were on the programme; but the chief attraction was the appearance of Catherine Hayes, on her return from a tour round the world, which throws into the shade even the wanderings of Ida Pfeiffer. Asia, Africa, America, Australia, the East and West Indies, Canada and the States, the Brazils and Russia—everywhere, in short, "from China to Peru," she seems to have been, and, in the magiloquent words of M. Julien, "the burning tropics and the cold north have confirmed her triumphs." The plaintive scene from *Le Prophète*, 'Ah! mon fils,' the more lively aria of Bellini, 'Come per me sereno,' the Irish ballad, 'The harp of Tara,' and the Scotch 'Coming through the rye,' presented ample variety of styles. There is certainly more skill displayed than formerly in her singing, but the voice appears somewhat worn, and requires evident exertion to sustain its effects. Apparent artlessness and ease are deficient, and these are among the highest achievements of vocal art. In the popular ballads she will be more unquestionably welcome than in operatic music.

#### LEARNED SOCIETIES.

##### GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

(From an Austrian Member.)

SECTION II.—*Botany and Vegetable Physiology* (continued).—Sept. 20th.—1. M. KALBRUNNER, of Langenloes (Austria), communicated his observations concerning a disease of the vine, which he thinks originates from the constitution of the soil, and may be cured by complete extirpation of the vines, and cultivation of the vineyard with maize, lucerne, and turnips, for a certain number of years.

2. PROF. ALEX. BRAUN read a paper on the position of the petals in the flower of *Delphinium* (Larkspur). He remarked that the history of the development of flowers is not yet sufficient to clear up their morphology. The calyx of *Delphinium* has a covering indicative of a  $\frac{2}{3}$  position. The cowl-like portion of the corolla is variable in composition and in the number of its sections. In some species the petals form no fulcrum. The number of petals (as long before stated by Batsch) is four, which are united into a monopetalous corolla. The original four petals stand in a hemicycle on the front of the calyx, the interstices between them being equal in size to the space occupied by the four petals. The species with resolved flowers have eight petals, as in *Aconitum*; in this case two petals form the nectaria, and the others are reduced to small apices surrounding the stamens. All these eight petals are evolved in the flower of *Nigella*, so that a flower of this genus, supposing the alternate petals to be obliterated, represents the flower of a *Delphinium*. In monstrous specimens of *Delphinium consolida* the number of spurred calcar-leaves corresponds exactly with that of spurred petals, a circumstance indicative of a corolla with five petals, only one of which is fully developed. *Garidella* is to *Nigella* as *Delphinium consolida* is to its other congeners: the petals stand opposite to the calcar-leaves. The *Delphinia* are variable in the number of their stamens. In *D. consolida* the stamens stand in five rows; in *D. cardiopetalum* in eight rows; in other species in a



greater number, as may be inferred from the scars which are left when the stamens are taken away; their position, especially in the group of *D. datum* and *D. grandiflorum*, may be expressed by the fraction  $\frac{1}{4}$ ; the position of the stamens in *D. cardiophyllum* (generally eighteen in number) is  $\frac{1}{2}$ . The succession in which the stamens cast their pollen answers exactly to the position of the leaves, anomalies, however, occurring frequently in the genus in question. The petals have a slight lateral deviation from their position opposite the calcar-leaves. The germinal leaves are disposed [in the same way as the stamens. The position of the petals in *Delphinium*, whatever may be its variations, would not authorize the establishment of distinct genera, these variations being in intimate mutual connexion.

3. DR. ROSSMANN proposed to organize a regular exchange of microscopical preparations, as done by the Giessen Microscopical Society, which has published a catalogue of its duplicates disposable in exchange. An uniform size of the object-bearers (37 millimetres long and 28 broad) would be very desirable.

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PROF. SCHMITZLEIN stated that he had abandoned the merely chemical point of view, previously adhered to by him, and that he was now occupied in investigating the roots of plants, sup-

posed to be connected with any special kind of soil, as he thinks them essentially dependent on the physical properties of the soil.

PROF. HEER gave his assent to the views expressed as to the importance of the physical influence of the soil.

PROF. SENDTNER replied that he had never denied the importance of physical influence, nor the generally identical composition of every kind of soil, without, however, allowing that the relative proportions of chemical substances in the soil were totally without effect—an assertion refuted by the periodical alternation of culture, and by the differences observable in water and moss vegetation.

2. DR. KERNER traced a parallel of the present flora with those of earlier periods. The fauna and flora of the diluvial period, which had so much influence on the present distribution of vegetable life, was itself influenced by the extension of the continent, and by climatic circumstances existing at the time. The few remains of plants found in the diluvium, all identical with now living species, indicate a flora very little, or not at all different from that of historical times; only some circumstances make it probable that forms, now peculiar to Alpine regions, extended to a far lower horizon during the diluvial period. After the "glacial period" of the diluvial epoch, the inferior limit of Alpine vegetation was removed to the higher altitudes now occupied by it, and wherever groups of Alpine plants now occur in lower horizons, it is only in localities where they find every condition fit for their existence, as in shadowy ravines, on rock-cliffs exposed to the north, and watered by running streams, &c. Dr. Kerner enumerated several localities of this description, in which the accidental occurrence of the seeds of Alpine plants, brought by waters from neighbouring elevations, appears totally inadmissible, and described, as a specimen of them, the narrow valley of the "Laasing Fall" (east portion of the north Alps), where plants of Alpine character (*Pinus maghus*, *Rhododendron hirsutum*, *R. chamaecistus*, *Saxifraga casia*, *Senecio abrotanifolius*, *Achillea clavennae*, &c.), grow on shadowy rock-cliffs exposed to the north, at an average altitude of not more than 2000 feet. The washing down of these plants or their seeds is an inadmissible supposition, the streams forming the Laasing rivulets coming from slopes totally destitute of any Alpine vegetation. Professor Heer mentioned a series of facts, proving the analogy between the diluvial and the present fauna and flora.

3. DR. REISSER noticed the formation of islets in the middle course of the Danube. These islets are either separated from the shore, or formed by sand and gravel alluvions. This latter mode of formation has hitherto been believed to be an irregular one, without distinct stratification. The relation between vegetation and the origin of these islets has not been duly noticed. The basis of the future islet is a gravel shoal, formed by high tides or by the breaking up of the ice. In the middle course of the Danube fragments of limestone and sandstone prevail among this gravel. As soon as the water retires, a scattered vegetation of willows, especially *Salix purpurea*, invades the newly-formed soil; these willows become bushy, especially when damaged by stones, which are rolled over them at high-water time; sand, carried along by water, is stopped by them, and heaped up in small hills, subsequently uniting into a layer of sand, from six to eight feet thick: this is the origin of bushy islets, whose vegetation is still half buried in sand. All subsequent plants have their roots fastened in the sand, rising among the sanded-up willow bushes, and succeeding each other in well-characterized generations. *Salix purpurea*, *S. riparia*, and *Myricaria Germanica*, belong exclusively to the first of these generations; the second of them is characterised by *Alnus incana*, *Populus alba*, *Connus mascula*; arborescent plants, as *Traxinus excelsior*, *Ulmus campestris*, *Quercus pedunculata*, *Pinus malus*, *P. communis*, &c., appear only in subsequent generations. Nascent islets are frequently destroyed by high tides, and

still more frequently by the breaking-up of the ice; the sand stratum and the vegetation are then carried away, and nothing remains but the gravel shoal, which occasionally serves again for a beginning of the same formative process: if the destruction has been but partial, new sand-hills are formed, and the formative process begins again on the destroyed portion of the island, so that younger and older vegetation may be seen alternating on the same islet. When the second generation of vegetation begins, and a compact wood rises above the bushy willows, these unite to form a thicket of brushwood. *Phragmites communis*, growing in groups among the willow bushes, and partly buried in sand, dies away under the shadow of the rising wood. Dr. Reisser illustrated his paper by exhibiting a series of diagrams, representing the mutual connexion of botanical and geological phenomena.

4. M. FRAUENFELD exhibited a misformed capitulum of *Chrysanthemum*, which Professor Braun, on minute investigation, declared to be owing to an annular fasciation of the receptaculum.

SECTION 2.—*Botany and Vegetable Physiology (continued)*—Sept. 22nd.—1. DR. KARSTEN, of Berlin, communicated his observations on the movements and moving organs of *Oscillatoria*. He saw (1834), at Lauenburg, a species of this genus moving by the aid of cilia, fixed to each. He found, subsequently, at Puerto Cabello, a very similar form, moving by similarly disposed cilia, and another of nearly equal size, containing chlorophyllous corpuscles, from which he was enabled to ascertain that the movements of *Oscillatoria* were not only oscillatory but also spiral-rotatory. A cilium being constantly visible on each articulation, even during movement, the whole circumference of each articulation may be inferred to be beset with cilia. Not having observed the development of these organisms, he abstained from any conclusion concerning their nature.—Professor Braun remarked that the movement of *Oscillatoria* is truly a spiral one, but that he never could ascertain them to be provided with moveable cilia. The filaments, which move frequently within narrow vaginæ, may be an objection against Dr. Karsten's supposition. Dr. Cohn gave his assent to Professor Braun's statement.

2. M. T. B. RATKA, of Prague, discussed the probable mother-plant of Elemi-resin, from Mexico. He described its leaves, and called upon botanists to give a description of its flowers and fruit, if known. He considered this resin to be extracted from a species of *Elaphium*, named by him *E. elemi*.

3. M. DE KOVATS gave details concerning the flora of Pesth, as compared with those of Buda and Vienna.

4. A note from PROF. PAYER, on Prof. Braun's paper 'On the Floral Structure of *Delphinium*,' was read.

5. PROF. DE LEONHARDI and DR. ROSSMANN exhibited specimens and drawings, illustrating their observations on the changes in form undergone by leaves in the course of their metamorphoses.

6. M. JÄGER, of Stuttgart, mentioned, with reference to Prof. Kolenati's communication (Sept. 19), the existence of Yew-trees in the environs of Eipbach (Wirttemberg), on a place called Wiesensteig. M. Jäger said that he thought this name was a corruption of 'Wiesent,' the old German name of the aurochs, and that it was indicative of the former passage of those animals.

7. PROF. PAKONNY drew attention to several papers transmitted to the Section, among which were:—

- A notice from Prof. Veesenmayer, of Ulm, concerning an old Herbarium of the sixteenth century.
- A communication from Prof. Billinek, of Cracow, concerning the localities of *Cimicifuga fetid* and *Betula Oycowiensis*, accompanied with specimens of both plants for distribution. It must be remarked, that this latter plant forms no part of the Galician flora (as erroneously stated in Dr. Malys's

'Enumerati,') its only known locality, Oycow, being situated in Russian Poland.

8. PROF. SCHNITZLEIN, who presided over the meeting of the Section, gave notice of two papers sent by Prof. Shimper; the one on the formation of roots and flowers, the other announcing the discovery of a structure of the cellular membrane not visible under the microscope. Prof. De Leonhardi gave an abstract of Prof. Shimper's discovery.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Monday**—Geographical, 8 p.m.—(1. Proceedings of the North Australian Expedition under Mr. A. C. Gregory. Communicated by the Right Hon. H. Labouchere. 2. Notes of a Journey up the Sadong River, Borneo. By Mr. A. R. Wallace. 3. Proposed Exploration of Borneo. By Lieut. De Crespigny, R.N.)  
Royal Academy, 8 p.m.—(Professor Partridge on Anatomy.)  
Architectural Museum, 8 p.m.—(Rev. C. Boutell, M.A., on the Contents of the Museum.)  
**Tuesday**—Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.—(Mr. D. K. Clark on the Improvement of Railway Locomotive Stock, and the Reduction of the Working Expenses.)  
Zoological, 9 p.m.—(Dr. Gray on New Mammalia. Mr. Gould on the Grouse of Northern Europe. M. Jules Verreaux on the Secretary Bird of South Africa. Mr. Fairholme on the Australian Dugong, *Halicore Australis*.)  
**Wednesday**—Ethnological, 8 p.m.—(Mr. L. J. Beale.—Do the Differences in Language indicate Differences in the Mental Faculties of the various Families of Man, or do they only Point to varying Degrees of Mental Development?)  
**Friday**—Astronomical, 8 p.m.  
Philosophical, 8 p.m.  
Architectural Association, 8 p.m.—(Special Meeting for the Consideration of a Letter from the Royal Institute of British Architects.)  
**Saturday**—Asiatic, 2 p.m.  
Medical, 8 p.m.  
Botanic, 4 p.m.

#### VARIETIES.

**Money Remittances by Electric Telegraph**—To afford facility to the public for the rapid remittance of sums of money, the Electric and International Telegraph Company have organized a branch of their establishment for that purpose. Money deposited with the company will be advised by telegraphic order, and be paid out to the parties named in the order, in accordance with the conditions printed on the company's forms. The towns between which these remittances can now be made are:—"From London to Liverpool, Manchester, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne; from Birmingham, Bristol, Dublin, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Sunderland, and York, to London.—By order, J. S. Fourdrier, Secretary." Thus, by a sort of natural necessity, the new "Mercury," the swift "Messenger," while he holds in one hand the magical transporting wand, in the other grasps the purse. These money remittances by telegraph are, doubtless, the beginnings of a great system which is likely to supersede post-office remittances,—we trust with safety equal to its swiftness.—*Builder*.

**Relics of the Stuarts**.—A collection of antique jewels and arms, interesting from their intrinsic value and artistic merit, but still more from the circumstance of their having belonged at different periods to various members of the Royal House of Stuart, has just been purchased in this city for Lord John Scott. From the late Cardinal York's *gentilhomme*, to which officer of his household his Eminence bequeathed these family relics. The collection, for which the purchaser has paid about 600*l.*, comprises the ring worn by the Pretender, entitled here James III., on his marriage with the Princess Clementina Sobieski, and the marriage ring of his son, Prince Charles Edward, enclosing a beautiful little miniature; a gold ring, with a white rose in enamel, worn by King James II. and James III.; an enamelled medallion of the Order of St. George, formerly worn by King Charles I.; the blade of John Sobieski's sword; a jasper-handled dagger, taken by Sobieski from the tent of a Turkish bey at the siege of Vienna; a portrait of the Duchess of Albany's mother; a dial and compass, mounted in silver, formerly belonging to Charles Stuart. The articles, about twenty in all, are now being carefully packed, and will be shortly forwarded to England.—*Daily News*.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—P. G. V. de M.; J. B.; W. F. B.; S. L. N.; A.—received.



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